



MAHWAH BOARD OF EDUCATION

60 Ridge Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430

Richard DeSilva, Jr.
1st Vice President

Prema C. Moorthy, PhD
President

Benjamin A. Kezmarsky
2nd Vice President

Brett Coplin
Trista Daveniero
Michael Galow

Christopher L. Hughes
Steve Huston
Janine Ting Jansen

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORK SESSION/ACTION MEETING OF THE MAHWAH BOARD OF EDUCATION held on Wednesday, August 05, 2026, in the Administrative Offices, 60 Ridge Rd., Mahwah, New Jersey.

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>).

CALL TO ORDER

President Dr. Moorthy called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mesdames Daveniero and Dr. Moorthy
Messrs. Coplin, Hughes, Galow, and DeSilva

ABSENT: Mesdames Jansen
Messrs. Kezmarsky, Huston

ALSO PRESENT: Michael DeTuro, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Dennis M. Fare, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent
Katherine A. Hiromoto, Business Administrator/ Board Secretary

PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Adequate notice of agenda of this meeting has been provided to *The Ridgewood News* and *The Record* specifying that the Mahwah Board of Education will meet on August 05, 2026, in the Administrative Offices, 60 Ridge Rd., Mahwah, New Jersey. A copy was filed with the Township Clerk.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

MOTION TO OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS

Motion by Mr. Hughes and seconded by Mr. Galow to open the meeting to the public for comments.

Motion carried at 9:01 a.m.

AGENDA QUESTIONS

There were no questions about the agenda.

MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS

Motion by Mr. Coplin and seconded by Mr. Hughes to close the meeting to the public for comments.

Motion carried at 9:02 a.m.

MAHWAH STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

No student representative report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – DR. MICHAEL DETURO

Superintendent Dr. Michael DeTuro provided an update on the District's New Teacher Orientation, noting that newly hired staff were completing the third and final day of the program. He explained that the orientation was designed to welcome new teachers to the District, establish District expectations and professional norms, and provide training and resources to support them as they prepare for the 2026-2027 school year.

Throughout the three-day orientation, District staff provided professional development on a variety of instructional topics, including special education, data-informed instruction, small-group instruction, and effective questioning and discussion techniques. Dr. DeTuro noted that the new teachers were highly engaged throughout the program and expressed his enthusiasm for the group as they begin their work in the District.

Dr. DeTuro also recognized and thanked Assistant Superintendent Dr. Dennis Fare for developing and coordinating the three-day orientation, including organizing the agenda, professional development sessions, presenters, and other activities. He described the orientation as a productive and successful experience for the District's new staff.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – DR. DENNIS M. FARE

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Dennis Fare continued the update on the District's New Teacher Orientation and expressed enthusiasm for the newest members of the District's staff. He noted that Board President Dr. Prema Moorthy had the opportunity to welcome the new hires on the first day of orientation and shared that photographs and additional highlights from the program will be included as part of the District's summer programming presentation at the August 26, 2026 Board meeting.

Dr. Fare emphasized that New Teacher Orientation was a collaborative effort involving administrators and current staff members who provided professional development and shared their expertise with the District's new educators. He recognized Superintendent Dr. Michael DeTuro for his active participation in the instructional training, particularly in the areas of small-group instruction and effective questioning and discussion techniques. Dr. Fare noted that the orientation provided new teachers with valuable insight into the District's instructional expectations and best practices.

Dr. Fare thanked all staff and administrators who contributed to the orientation and described the three-day program as a successful and collaborative effort to welcome and prepare the District's new educators for the upcoming school year.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT – MS. KATHERINE A. HIROMOTO

No business administrator/board secretary report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No president's report.

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.)

On behalf of the Finance and Facilities Committee, Mr. Galow provided an update on the capital improvement work underway throughout the District. He highlighted the progress of projects currently taking place at Mahwah High School, noting that the work is visibly underway, including improvements to the parking lot curbs.

Mr. Galow expressed his appreciation for the progress being made and noted that the District continues to move forward expeditiously with its planned capital projects. He also reiterated the District's gratitude to the Mahwah community for its support of the referendum and the funding that is allowing these improvements to move forward.

BOARD MEMBER REMARKS/ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON REPORTS OR OTHER NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Galow requested clarification regarding the distinction between agenda items H and I. Dr. Fare explained that the items represent two separate classrooms dedicated to the District's autism programs and that the distinction is required for certification by the Board Secretary and submission to the County.

17. NEW BUSINESS- OTHER

Resolutions 17a-17i were moved by Mr. Galow and seconded by Mr. Coplin.

- 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.

- 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. 18A: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.

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

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.

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

* 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).

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

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.

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.

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolution 17a-17i.

Motion 17a-17i carried 6 ayes, 0 nays.

18. NEW BUSINESS- PERSONNEL

Resolutions 18a-18k were moved by Mr. Hughes and seconded by Mr. Coplin.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolution 18a-18k.
Motion 18a-18k carried 6 ayes, 0 nays.

PUBLIC QUESTION 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.

MOTION TO OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

Motion by Mr. DeSilva and seconded by Mr. Coplin, to open the meeting to the public.

There were no public questions or comments.

Motion carried at 9:07 a.m.

MOTION TO CLOSE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

Motion by Mr. Hughes and seconded by Mr. Galow to close the meeting to the public.

Motion carried at 9:07 a.m.

MOTION TO RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Galow and seconded by Mr. DeSilva to recess to Executive Session under Chapter 231, P.L. (Sunshine Law), which authorizes a public body to discuss personnel, negotiations, student, and/or legal matters.

Motion carried at 9:07 a.m.

MOTION TO RECONVENE TO PUBLIC ACTION MEETING

Motion by Mr. Hughes and seconded by Mr. Galow to reconvene the public session.

Motion carried at 9:15 a.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion by Mr. Hughes and seconded by Mr. Galow to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried at 9:15 a.m. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Katherine A. Hiromoto
Business Administrator/Board Secretary