

MAYWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

September 16, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Maywood Board of Education was held on September 16, 2026. President Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:02PM.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Benson-Kraft, Mr. Ramirez, Ms. Soriano, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Velez

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Kiely and Mr. O'Neill

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Michael Jordan, Superintendent and Ms. Jennifer Pfohl, Business Administrator

FLAG SALUTE

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided on July 24, 2026 in accordance with the New Jersey Statutes 10:4-8 as follows: Posted by the Board Secretary in the Board of Education Office, 452 Maywood Avenue, e-mailed to Our Town and the Record newspapers, e-mailed to Municipal Building for posting on the Municipal Bulletin Board in the Borough Clerk's Office, 15 Park Avenue.

All staff motions have been recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, subject to approval by the New Jersey Department of Education, Chapter 116, PL 1986, Provisional Employment, pending criminal history background check.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Jordan reported on the following:

- We thank all of our students, staff and families for a great opening, and we look forward to our full first week of school.
- The MAS Class of 2027 represented the district with distinction at the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at Memorial Park.
- The foundation of our AI use policy is completed and the implementation will take place this year. We will convene a meeting in the beginning of the year and finalize the procedures/regulations with all staff. The foundation of the implementation is that this policy will be teacher driven. Teachers will have control over the process regarding how, if, when and why AI can be used.
- Assignments will be labeled akin to a Red Light (do not use AI at all), Yellow Light (Parameters will be provided as to what can be used), and Green Light (students are encouraged to utilize AI. This is not a one-size fits all and therefore we will discuss the implementation in depth and make tweaks as we go along.
- The District Events Calendar will be a LIVE document for the school year for all to refer to. 2026-27 LIVE Calendar
- Observation/Evaluation Protocols. Dates below are fictitious and are meant only as examples.
 - Day 0 - Monday, September 21st is the observation.
 - Day 3 - By no later than Thursday, September 24th, the observation should be fully completed and sent to the teacher in the portal with a hardcopy as backup. Upon sending the evaluation please schedule the post conference for non-tenured staff and any tenured staff needed.
 - Day 10 - By no later than October 1, the post conference should be completed with the NT teacher and/or confirmed that the tenured teacher conference will not take place.
 - All non-tenured observations must be followed up by a post conference.
 - The tenured post conferences are scheduled if you and/or the teacher ask for it.

YELLOW - New teachers who must be observed in those specific months.

BLUE - Year 4 teachers Approaching Tenure.

ORANGE - Year 2, 3 teachers who must be observed in those specific months.

GREEN - All tenured teachers who must be observed once each in that block for their 2 observations.

PURPLE - All tenured teachers who must be observed once each in that block for their 2 observations.

- New Jersey's new statewide electronic device policy mandates a "bell-to-bell" ban on the non-academic use of cellphones and internet-enabled devices (like smartwatches and tablets) in K-12 public schools during the school day.
- Please see below for a reminder of the policy as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. If a student chooses to bring a personal electronic device to school, which includes watches, Smartwatches, FitBits, etc. of any kind that can receive texts/emails/access to the internet, the device must remain stored in the student locker for grades 5-8 and in the backpack/cubby area for grades K-4. The device must remain in the OFF position until the end of the school day. Lastly, the use of camera or video technology is strictly prohibited during school hours.
 - ✓ 1st Offense - Warning, Teacher hands device into the main office, Student picks it up at the end of the school day.
 - ✓ 2nd Offense - Detention, Teacher hands device into the main office, Parent Pickup at the end of the school day.
 - ✓ 3rd Offense - In School Suspension, Teacher hands device in to the main office, Parent Pick-up at the end of the school day, Loss of Extracurricular Privileges for 2 weeks
 - ✓ 4th Offense - Out of School Suspension, Teacher hands device in to the main office, Parent Pick-up at the end of the school day, Loss of Extracurricular Privileges for remainder of school year
- Maywood - The ANSWERS. This is a real-time, editable as needed, "Go To" guide for all staff. Hopefully throughout the year we continue to use it when we are looking for that quick "Answer" to a pressing question or something that we are looking for to plan ahead accordingly.
- The MEM BTSN will take place on Tuesday, September 22nd and the MAS BTSN will take place on Wednesday, September 23rd at 6:30 PM. The District will work off an Early Dismissal Schedule on Friday, September 25th.
- Effective for the start of the 26-27 school year, homeroom, lunch and recess periods will be "Unplugged." Students will not be allowed to use their chromebooks or other district technology during this daily time period. Whether they are in the lunch room, backfield, gym, in front of their locker or in the media center, and whether they are working on school work or online games, we will power down during this time frame. HR is for announcements please.
- We have taken the step for the start of the 26-27 school year to make adjustments in the use of technology in the District. For the first time since the inception of our use of student chromebooks when we started with them on carts and now as a 1:1, we will no longer provide the chromebooks to Kindergarten students on a 1:1 basis.
- We will be engaging in a review of the use of technology in our school this year that will eclipse the change in kindergarten and include an in-depth review of chromebook uses at all grade levels, including screen time in school, at home and the amount of time we use the devices during our academic class periods. Instead of making broad generalizations in terms of the path forward, we will analyze this in depth from both a quantitative and qualitative perspective, including all stakeholders throughout this school year.
- The District Technology Fee is due by no later than September 18th.
- Lockdown drills and fire drills are scheduled in both buildings this week.
- The Grade 8 Car Wash is scheduled for the 29th from 315 to 6 pm.
- Grade 7 student ambassadors will be paired with their 4th graders in the
- Big/Brother/Big Sister program in two weeks.

- Congratulations to the 25-26 Governor's Teacher of the Year, MAS/MEM Teachers of the Year, and Educational Support Persons of the Year. These outstanding individuals were honored at the Opening Staff Convocation on the morning of September 8th!

*Governor's Teacher of the Year - Mrs. Manzer
MAS Teacher of the Year - Mrs. Schenk
Memorial Teacher of the Year - Ms. LaRose
MAS Educational Support Person of the Year - Mrs. Blundo
Memorial Educational Support Person of the Year - Mrs. Byrnes
District Educational Support Person of the Year - Ms. Smith*

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Pfohl reported on the following:

- n/a

COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

Buildings & Grounds – Thanks to custodial staff/building and grounds staff

Finance – Waiting on audit. We are able to come closer to a full close as time passes.

Curriculum – No report

Policy – No report

Personnel – Becton interns working

Safety/OEM – New numbers on all building rooms for security purposes

Technology – Kindergarten no longer 1:1. There were several scam emails recently and we will be revamping gmail procedures next week.

Community Relations – POs will be handling a candidate's night for those running for BOE. 8th grade/SBJ will be starting soon.

Negotiations – No report

Legislation – No report

Mayor and Council – Thanks to the Mayor and Council for the invite to the 9/11 service.

MAS PTO – Met last night. 8th grade social planning meeting after. Ms. Garcia is the new President. Tricky tray will now be a district event, not by school.

MEM PTO – No report

Seniors – FBK working on adopt a grandparent program. There is a lot of interest.

Library – Historical committee will be displaying their collection at the library. They are working on the website (not BCCLS) to clean it up. They are going to be celebrating a 75 year anniversary.

Office of Emergency Management – No report

Becton BOE – Meeting on 9/30

PRESENTATIONS and RECOGNITIONS;

- n/a

BREAK

- n/a

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- Parent asked about technology practices and hopes there will be a committee with parental involvement.

BOARD COMMENTS

- n/a

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

BL.5 Meeting Block Motion/Approval to Vote on Monthly Motions as a Group

Any board member who takes exception to any of the following listed actions may so indicate now and a separate motion for each of the excepted motions will be entertained:

RECOMMENDED ACTION - "move that the following actions of the Maywood Board of Education numbered: A.74, A.75, A.76, A.77, A.78, A.79, A.80, A.81, A.82, A.83, A.84, A.85, A.86, P.57, P.58, P.59, P.60, P.61, P.62, P.63, P.64, F.34, F.35, F.36, F.37, F.38, F.39, F.40, F.41, and F.42, to be approved as shown on the agenda dated, 9/16/2026."

Moved by: Mr. Taylor
Seconded by: Mr. Ramirez
Vote: 5/0
Abstentions: 0

A.74 Acceptance of Minutes – “that the Board accept the following minutes of the Board of Education meetings.”

8/26/26 Regular Meeting, Closed

A.75 Acceptance of DLM Assessment Results – “that the Board accept the DLM Assessment results presentation.”

A.76 Approval of Conference/Workshop Attendance – “that the Board approve the following individual’s attendance at the specified conferences/workshops:

	<u>Conference</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Approx. Cost</u>
C. Byrnes	Bergen County Suicide Prevention	9/15/26	free
S. Spencer	2026 Fall Director’s Conference	10/06/26	mileage
A. Manalili	Art Educators of NJ Annual Conf.	10/26 & 10/27	\$190+mileage
G. Camacho	Art Educators of NJ Annual Conf.	10/26 & 10/27	\$190+mileage
S. Spencer	Handle with Care - Recertification	10/27, 10/28 & 10/29	mileage
R. Burke	Handle with Care - Recertification	10/30/26	\$300+mileage
C. Kissinger	Handle with Care - Recertification	10/30/26	\$300+mileage
N. Conturso	Handle with Care - Recertification	11/12/26	\$300+mileage
J. Manzer	Handle with Care - Recertification	11/12/26	\$300+mileage

A.77 Approval of SOA – “that the Board approve the Statement of Assurance submitted for the Use of Paraprofessionals for the 2026-2027 school year.

A.78 Approval of Class Trips – “that the Board approve the following class trips for the 2026-2027 school year:

Kindergarten	10/15/2026	Maywood Police Station & Firehouse
Kindergarten	5/27/2027	Turtle Back Zoo, West Orange, NJ
7 th Grade	6/10/2027	Liberty Hall Museum, Union, NJ

- A.79 Approval of Use of Facilities** – “that the Board approve the use of the MAS large gym by the *Redtails Basketball program* for practice, Monday & Weds., 9/14–11/5/26 from 6-9pm.”
- A.80 Approval of Use of Facilities** – “that the Board approve the use of the MEM gym by the *Bulls Basketball program* for practice, Tues & Thurs, 9/14–11/5/26 from 6-9pm.”
- A.81 Approval of Use of Facilities** – “that the Board approve the use of the MAS backfield by the *MYAA – Soccer Program*, 9/14/26 – 11/20/26, Monday thru Thurs., 5:30-9pm.”
- A.82 Approval of Use of Facilities** – “that the Board approve the use of MAS gym by the *MYAA – Volleyball Team*, Tues., Thurs & Fri., 9/14/26 – 11/30/26 from 5:30-9pm.”
- A.83 Approval of Special Services** – “that the Board approve the following special services for student **LL (MEM – 3)** for the 2026-2027 school year;
- Provider:** Region V
Evaluations: Functional Behavioral Analysis Evaluation (FBA)
Date: To be completed by 10/30/26
Rate per Evaluation: Not to exceed \$2,500

- A.84 Acceptance of Tuition Students** – “that the Board approve the acceptance of two out-of-district tuition students for the 2026-2027 school year: One student for MAS LLD 4-8 class and one student for Memorial LLD K-3 severe class. Names are listed in the Board Office.”

- A.85 Approval of Special Services** – “that the Board approve the following special services for student CCB (Residential-6th) for the 2026-2027 school year:

<i>Student</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Tuition</i>	<i>Transportation</i>	<i>Dates</i>
KJ (5/OOD)	Roosevelt Elementary School, Hawthorne	\$33,760	Parent	9/1/26–6/17/27
CCB (6/Residential)	DCF Children’s Specialized Hospital Union Campus, Scotch Plain	\$64,872	N/A	7/6/26–6/24/27

- A.86 Approval of Special Services** – “that the Board approve the following special services for student CCB (Residential-6th) for the 2026-2027 school year:

<i>School</i>	<i>OT Therapy</i>	<i>PT Therapy</i>	<i>Total</i>
DCF Children’s Specialized Hospital Union Campus, Scotch Plains	2 (30) min. sessions per wk @ \$105 per session		\$10,500
	(The Therapy Corner)	2 (30) min. sessions per wk @ \$127.50 per session	\$12,750

- P.57 Appointment of Maternity Leave Teacher** – “that the Board appoint Amanda DiMase, as a maternity leave replacement teacher from 10/05/26 - 4/16/27, placed on BA, Step 1 with an annual salary of \$58,000, to be prorated (*pending clearance*).”

- P.58 Approval of Non-CDL Drivers** - “that the Board approve the following non-CDL drivers, as submitted to the NJ Department of Education. They will be paid at their hourly rate, with the minimum being \$25.88 and not to exceed \$33.12 per hour:

Chris Anne Voza Sokol Ballolli
Jose Mendoza Yessenia Rodas

- P.59 Approval of Stipends** - “that the Board approve the following stipends for the 2026-2027 school year:

<u>2026-2027</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>ANNUAL</u>
MELANIE TORRE (BINI)	TEAM LEADER - KINDERGARTEN	747.00
ERIN O'NEILL	TEAM LEADER 1ST GRADE	747.00
KAITLIN LAROSE	TEAM LEADER - 2ND GRADE	747.00
COLLEEN CHACON	TEAM LEADER - 3RD GRADE	747.00
NICOLE BOSCHETTI	TEAM LEADER 4TH GRADE	747.00
JAKE LINDENAU	TEAM LEADER 5TH GRADE	747.00
MARGARET HASSEL	TEAM LEADER- SPECIAL ED MEM	747.00
STACEY BORINTRAGER	TEAM LEADER SPECIALS MEMORIAL	747.00
C. BYRNES, J. CATALDI	TEACHER IN CHARGE *per diem	120.00
DENISE BIGGINS	TEAM LEADER 6TH GRADE	747.00
KRIS KOENIG	TEAM LEADER 7TH GRADE	747.00
KELLY ZAVODOSKY	TEAM LEADER 8TH GRADE SHARED	747.00
AUSTIN WEY	TEAM LEADER SPECIALS MAS	747.00
ANGELA FELICIANO	TEAM LEADER- SPECIAL ED	747.00
KELLY THOMSON	COLLABORATIVE TEACHER 6 SCIENCE	747.00
DENISE BIGGINS	COLLABORATIVE TEACHER 6 SCIENCE	747.00
JANINE FISHER	COLLABORATIVE TEACHER 7 SCIENCE	747.00
LAURA AURIEMMA	COLLABORATIVE TEACHER 7 SCIENCE	747.00
LIZ GONNERNAN	COLLABORATIVE TEACHER 8 SCIENCE	747.00
NICK NAPOLITANO	COLLABORATIVE TEACHER 8 SCIENCE	747.00
NICOLE TUFANO	DETENTION *per day	41.00
DENISE BIGGINS	CROCHET CLUB	443.00
ALICIA SCHENK	REACT- SPLIT	305.50
DANIELLE BARRETT	REACT- SPLIT	305.50
ALICIA SCHENK	HAWK MINI NEWSPAPER	253.25
MEGAN HARRINGTON	HAWK MINI NEWSPAPER	253.25
KATHRYN CAMBREA	HAWK NEWSPAPER 6-8 th	506.50
KELLY ZAVODOSKY	MAS YEARBOOK SPLIT	1,059.00
EMILY MCNAMARA	MAS YEARBOOK SPLIT	1,059.00
COLLEEN CHACON	MEM YEARBOOK	672.00
KRIS KOENIG	MAS SUPPLY PERSON	418.00
MARISA FRENCH	MEM SUPPLY PERSON	443.00
KAREN MARIE	TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR	1,385.00
NICK NAPOLITANO	STUDENT COUNCIL	1,240.00
GENECIE CAMACHO	ART CLUB	443.00
CHRISTINE BLUNDO	BINDER RESCUE	611.00
ADAM VECCHIA	CHESS CLUB	443.00
ED BALSAM	TALENT SHOW COORDINATOR	418.00
ADAM VECCHIA	THEATER ASST DIRECTOR (PLAY)	585.00
ED BALSAM	THEATER DIRECTOR (PLAY)	2,213.00
ROBERT BURKE	BASEBALL	1,828.00
K. LAROSE/N. BOSCHETTI	SOFTBALL COACH- Split	1,828.00
DAVID MARTINEZ**	BSKT.COACH BOYS	4,310.00
ANGELA LOMBARDI	BSKT.COACH GIRLS	4,310.00
CAMRYN EISENBERG	CHEERLEADING split	1,862.50
MEGAN HARRINGTON	CHEERLEADING split	1,862.50
TIMMINS/ WELLS SPLIT 50/50	INTRAMURALS - VOLLEYBALL spring	931.00
JAKE LINDENAU	INTRAMURALS - FRISBEE spring	931.00
NICOLE TUFANO	INTRAMURAL - KICKBALL spring	931.00
JAKE LINDENAU- head	CROSS COUNTRY COACH- split 65	1,199.90
ADAM VECCHIA - assistant	CROSS COUNTRY COACH- split 35	646.10

DENISE BIGGINS	6TH GR.OVER.TRIP COORDINATOR	844.00
NICK NAPOLITANO	8TH GR.TRIP COORDINATOR	844.00
KELLY ZAVODOSKY	8TH GR. GRADUATION COORDINATOR	424.00
KEITH TIMMINS	BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT CHAPERONE	187.00
TIMMINS/BONELLI/WELLS	BASKETBALL CHAPERONES *per game	68.00

- P.60 Approval of Sub List** – “that the Board approve the following individuals be added to the substitute list for the 2026-2027 school year (*pending clearance*).”

Sub-Teacher

Amanda Malave – NJ Sub cert.
David Martinez – NJ Sub cert. w/degree

- P.61 Approval for Additional Payment** - “that the Board approve the following individuals be paid for working additional summer hours worked in preparation for the 2026-2027 school year.

Kerry Leto – 72 hrs. previously approved, increase to 80.5 hours
Kristen Shedlock – Kindergarten screening – 5 hours

- P.62 Approval of Bus Aides** - “that the Board approve the following individuals as bus aides for the 20226-2027 school year, paid at their hourly rate:

Desiree Estrella Elizabeth Grullon
Stefanie Nicolette Maritza O’Neill
Lisa VanDeWeert

- P.63 Approval for Additional Payment** - “that the Board approve Julianna Najda receive additional pay for providing home instruction for student **LM (MAS)** for 5 hours per week @ \$50 per hour, 9/16/26 through 10/30/26.”

- P.64 Appointment of Paraprofessional** – “that the Board appoint Bertha Zhukovin, as a paraprofessional for 2026-2027, as ABA, step A, with an annual salary of \$27,937.35, start date pending clearance.”

- F.34 Approval of Check Run** - “that the Board approve a check run in **September** in the amount of \$ 901,598.85.”

- F.35 Approval of Check Run for Cafeteria Bills** - “that the Board approve a check run for Cafeteria bills in **September** in the amount of \$ 3,603.74.”

- F.36 Approval of Board Secretary’s Report** – “that the Board approve the Board Secretary Report, as submitted, for **August 31, 2026**.”

- F.37 Approval of Treasurer’s Report** – “that the Board approve the Treasurer of School Monies Report, for **August 31, 2026**.”

- F.38 Approval of Transfer of Funds** - “that the Board approve the report of transfer of funds for **August 31, 2026**.”

- F.39 Approval of Disposal of Equipment** - “that the Board approve of the disposal of computer equipment as submitted. These assets have no fair book market value.”

F.40 Approval of Payroll - "that the Board approve the payroll for **August** as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	
10	250,856.70
20	-
Total:	\$ 250,856.70
Board Share FICA/Medicare	13,577.58
State Share FICA Medicare	5,312.18
Board DCRP	19.68
Total Payroll Expense:	269,766.14

F.41 Approval of Board Secretary's Monthly Certification - "that the Board accept the Board Secretary's monthly certification on budget line status as follows: Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6:20-2.13(d), I certify that as of **August 31, 2026**, no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A.18A:22-8.1."

F.42 Approval of Board's Monthly Certification - "that the Board approve the Board's monthly certification Budgetary Major Account/Fund Status as follows: Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11, we certify that as of **August 31, 2026**, after review of the secretary's monthly report (statement of expenditures) and upon consultation with violation of N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11, and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year."

EXCEPTED MOTIONS VOTED ON SERPARATELY

- *n/a*

TABLED MOTIONS

- *n/a*

BOARD COMMENTS

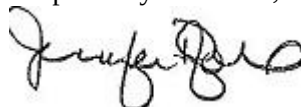
- *n/a*

CLOSED SESSION 7:58PM

- *Residency*

MEETING ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 8:20PM

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Pfohl, Board Secretary