



MAHWAH BOARD OF EDUCATION

60 Ridge Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430

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

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING/BOARD REATREAT MEETING OF THE MAHWAH BOARD OF EDUCATION held on Wednesday, September 11, 2026, at the Mahwah High School T3 Building, 50 Ridge Rd., Mahwah, NJ, 07430.

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 Ting Jansen and Dr. Moorthy, with Ting Jansen arriving at 9:07 a.m.
Messrs. Kezmarsky, Coplin, Huston, Hughes and Galow, with Hughes leaving at 10:35 a.m., and Huston leaving at 11:30 a.m.

ABSENT: Mesdames Daveniero
Messrs. DeSilva

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

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 September 11, 2026, at the Mahwah High School T3 Building, 50 Ridge Rd., Mahwah, NJ, 07430. A copy was filed with the Township Clerk.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

MOTION TO OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS

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

Motion carried at 9:05 a.m.

AGENDA QUESTIONS

No agenda questions.

MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS

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

Motion carried at 9:05 a.m.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – DR. MICHAEL DETURO

Dr. DeTuro welcomed the Board and administrative team to the annual Board retreat and discussed the purpose of the retreat as an opportunity for the Board and administration to engage in professional learning, reflect on District priorities, and establish shared goals and commitments for the upcoming school year.

Dr. Moorthy acknowledged the significance of September 11 and led the group in a moment of silence in remembrance of those who lost their lives and in recognition of the importance of community, unity, and service.

Board members and administrators participated in a facilitated activity identifying hopes, priorities, and areas of focus for the upcoming school year. The discussion included District finances and rising health benefit costs, technology and artificial intelligence, school safety and security, student well-being, school culture, and opportunities to support continued student growth.

The administration provided an overview of the District's ongoing work related to artificial intelligence, including plans for staff professional development focused on AI literacy, privacy, responsible use, and appropriate instructional applications.

The Board and administration discussed the District's focus on executive functioning and the development of age-appropriate strategies and supports designed to strengthen students' organization, preparation, time management, transitions, and other skills that contribute to academic and personal success.

The Board and administration also discussed student well-being, school culture, student engagement, and the importance of maintaining supportive learning environments throughout the District. The administration provided an overview of existing programs and initiatives that support students academically, socially, and emotionally.

The administration provided a general update regarding school safety and security, including the District's continued focus on emergency preparedness, staff training, security improvements, communication systems, and collaboration with local law enforcement.

The Board received a presentation from its New Jersey School Boards Association representative regarding the collective bargaining process, including an overview of Board responsibilities, the roles of the Board and negotiations committee, general procedures, and the anticipated timeline for the upcoming negotiations cycle. The Board also received information regarding professional development and Board certification opportunities.

The Board reviewed and discussed its goals for the 2026–2027 school year, including oversight of referendum projects with an emphasis on fiscal stewardship and transparency; preparation for the upcoming collective bargaining cycle; continued review and updating of District policies and regulations; and continued Board professional development and effective governance.

The Board and administration reviewed the progress of the District's referendum projects and discussed long-

term facilities planning. The administration provided an overview of current project progress, anticipated scheduling, project communications, and the continued monitoring of referendum expenditures. The Board discussed the importance of responsibly completing the approved referendum projects while continuing to evaluate the District's long-term capital and facility needs.

The administration also provided an overview of the management of referendum proceeds and the District's efforts to maximize investment earnings while maintaining sufficient liquidity to fund projects as they progress. The Board discussed the importance of continued fiscal oversight, monitoring project costs, maintaining appropriate reserves, and evaluating future capital needs in conjunction with the District's overall financial position.

The Board concluded its discussion by considering long-term facility priorities and the importance of periodically evaluating future capital projects as the current referendum work progresses.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion by Mr. Coplin and seconded by Mr. Kezmarsky to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried at 12:37 p.m. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Katherine A. Hiromoto
Business Administrator/Board Secretary