

**MINUTES
MOUNT ARLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 16, 2026**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

PRESENT: Rachel Byrne, President
Sheila Studint, Vice-President
Chris D'Amico
Melissa Eckert
Erika Puskas

ABSENT: Edwin Botero
Karl Svenningsen

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Jessica Neu, Superintendent of Schools
Robin C. Tedesco, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Board of Education President, Rachel Byrne, called the in-person meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., declared a quorum present, and read the following notices:

The Mount Arlington Board of Education is meeting for action and discussion about business before the Board of Education today.

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the public's right to have advance notice of and to attend meetings of public bodies at which business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with this Act, the Board of Education has sent notice of today's meetings and copies of the agenda to the:

Roxbury Register
Daily Record
Star Ledger
Municipal Clerk
Board of Education Members

Notice of today's meeting and copies of the agenda have been posted on the Mount Arlington Public Schools Website: www.mtarlingtonk8.org

All Board of Education members present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. None

PUBLIC SESSION

1. None

MINUTES:

A motion was presented by Mrs. Eckert and seconded by Mrs. Studint, to approve:

1. Board Retreat – August 17, 2026
2. Regular Meeting & Executive – August 19, 2026

Voice Vote:

Yes: 5

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 2

Motion Passed

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

1. None

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. None

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Tedesco reviewed the motions before the Board of Education as shown on the agenda.

BUSINESS - ACTION ITEMS BY COMMITTEE:

FINANCE

A motion was presented by Mrs. Studint and seconded by Mrs. Eckert, to approve Finance Agenda Items 091626-B-1 through 091626-B-14.

091626-B-1 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approves the General Account check register of payments dated from August 20, 2026 through September 16, 2026, in the amount of \$802,037.96

091626-B-2 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approves the list of line-item transfers for the month of August 2026.

091626-B-3 RESOLVED, that the report of the Secretary and the related statement of cash balances for the month of August 2026 be approved by the Mount Arlington Board of Education and ordered filed, and further that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approves the certification of the

Board Secretary for the month of August 2026 that no line-item account has encumbrances and expenditures which, in total, exceed the line appropriation of the adopted 2026-2027 budget, as revised, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:17-9 and further certifies that no major account or fund has been expended in violation of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-8 or N.J.S.A. 18A:19.

091626-B-4 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approves the following field trips/fundraisers for the 2026-2027 school year.

Grade	Date	Location
Grades 1-5	10/19/26-10/26/26	Decker School-Theatre Week Transportation
Grades 5-8	3/10/27	Roxbury High School- All District Band Concert
Grades 5-8	5/14/27	High Notes Festival & Dorney Park

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approves the PTO as an additional insured under the district's insurance program while sponsoring the Decker School-Theatre Week transportation.

091626-B-5 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve travel and related costs, as follows which are educationally necessary and fiscally prudent and are related to and within the scope of the employees' current responsibilities and promotes the delivery of instruction or further the efficient operation of the school district. The reimbursements listed in this resolution are in compliance with State travel reimbursement guidelines as established by the Department of the Treasury and Board of Education policy in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et. seq.

Name	Seminar/Conference	Date	Est. Expense	Mileage Expense
J. Neu	NJSBA Convention	Oct 19-22, 2026	\$550.00 \$170.00	\$120.32 \$20.00
R. Byrne	NJSBA Convention	Oct 19-22, 2026	\$550.00 \$102.00 \$143.60	\$120.32 \$20.00
C. D'Amico	NJSBA Convention	Oct 19-22, 2026	\$550.00 \$170.00	\$120.32 \$20.00

E. Wassel	Art Educators Conference	Oct 26-27, 2026	\$604.00	\$47.43
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091626-B-6 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the Morris County Administrators of Special Education (MCASE) annual membership dues in the amount of \$375.00

091626-B-7 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve translation services for communication with families funded under Title I at an amount not to exceed \$1,000 through NJ Language Line Solutions.

091626-B-8 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve NWEA (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) to provide K-3 literacy professional development for staff funded under Title I at an amount not to exceed \$1,890.

091626-B-9 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve NWEA (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) Reading Fluency add-on program to fulfill the NJ Department of Education Grades K-3 Literacy mandate at a cost not to exceed \$1,120.

091626-B-10 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the following route and cost for the 2026-2027 school year with Educational Services Commission of Morris County plus 4% administrative fee.

Route	Route Number	Cost
Morris Knolls-Choice	MKV11	\$1,175.20
Lenape Valley-Choice	CS347	\$1,175.20

091626-B-11 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approves the Joint Transportation Agreement between the Roxbury Board of Education and the Mount Arlington Board of Education for the 2026-2027 school year with a 4% administrative fee.

Route	Route Number	Cost
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Eisenhower Middle School	EMS07	\$22,125.00 \$885.00
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091626-B-12 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approves the Joint Transportation Agreement between the Roxbury Board of Education and the Mount Arlington Board of Education for the 2026-2027 school year with a 4% administrative fee.

Route	Route Number	Cost
Satellite	RHSSS/LR01	\$18,000.00 \$720.00

091626-B-13 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the following route and cost with Educational Services Commission of Morris County for the 2026-2027 school year.

Route	Route Number	Cost
MCVT-County College	CCM12	\$13,376.70
MCVT-County College	CCM17	\$2,647.50
MCVT-PM Route from Denville	CV016	\$59,904.00

091626-B-14 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approves the following McKinney Vento transportation route and cost with Sussex Regional Co-operative for the 2026-2027 school year plus a 2% administrative fee.

Route	Route Number	Cost
McKinney Vento	Q-115	\$44,856.00 \$897.12

Roll Call:

<i>Mr. Botero</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Mrs. Byrne</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. D'Amico</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Eckert</i>	<i>Yes</i>

<i>Mrs. Puskas</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Studint</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Svenningsen</i>	<i>Absent</i>

Motion Passes

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Neu reviewed the motions before the Board of Education as shown on the agenda.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - ACTION ITEMS BY COMMITTEE

PERSONNEL:

A motion was presented by Mrs. Studint, and seconded by Mrs. Eckert, to approve Personnel Agenda Items 091626-S-1 through 091626-S-11 and 091626-S-21.

- 091626-S-1 Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent resolved to approve additional summer employment hours (work at Decker/BOE Office) as needed for the following personnel:

Staff Member	Dates of Employment	Total # of Hours	26/27 Rate per hour
Marie van Rossen	7/1/2026-8/31/2026	up to 14 hours	\$31.32

- 091626-S-2 Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent resolved to extend the return date from maternity leave for employee #10420 from November 2, 2026 to November 23, 2026.

- 091626-S-3 Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent resolved to extend the employment of employee #10574 through November 20, 2026.

- 091626-S-4 Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent resolved to approve the following parent volunteers (Note: State approved background checks are on file):

Danielle Costa	Jessica Costa
Chelsea Bray	

- 091626-S-5 Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent resolved to approve the appointment of Jose Reyes as part-time custodian for the 2026-2027 school year at an hourly rate of \$18.00 per hour. (Note: Appointment is based upon receipt of State approved background check and physical).

- 091626-S-6 Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent resolved to approve the appointment of Lauri Trowbridge, part-time lunch aide, at a rate of \$17 per hour not to exceed 1 hour and 45 minutes per day for 182 days effective September 4, 2026-June 30, 2027. (Note: Appointment is based upon receipt of State approved background check and physical).
- 091626-S-7 Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent resolved to approve the appointment of Audra Bongiorno, part-time business office clerk, at a rate of \$25 per hour not to exceed 25 hours per week for 52 weeks (12 month position) effective September 22, 2026-June 30, 2027. (Note: Appointment is based upon receipt of State approved background check and physical).
- 091626-S-8 Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent resolved to rescind the resignation of Tara Pierri, part-time aide effective September 1, 2026 and reappoint her for the 2026-2027 school year effective September 1, 2026 at an hourly rate of \$18.81 (per approved motion 081926-S-8).
- 091626-S-9 Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent resolved to add Marcus Roldan and Andrew Elmasri to our list of substitute teachers for the 2026-2027 school year. (Note: Approval is based upon receipt of State approved background check and certification as required by law).
- 091626-S-10 Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent resolved to approve curriculum writing revisions for Diane Van Dongen up to 12 hours (Vocal Music) at a rate of \$44.04 per hour.
- 091626-S-11 RESOLVED to approve the following members of the Mount Arlington NJQSAC Committee:

Name	Position
Dr. Jessica Neu	Superintendent
Marina Williams	District Administrative Staff
Robin Tedesco	District Business Administrator
Sheila Studint	District Board of Education Member
Tanya Occhiuzzo	Local Collective Bargaining Representative
Nicole Malakuskie	Teacher
Patricia Pickens	Administrative Assistant to Superintendent
Barbara Caggiano	Administrative Assistant to Business Administrator

ADDENDUM

- 091626-S-21 Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent resolved to approve additional curriculum writing revision hours for Christine Spicuzzo up to 8 hours for (K-8 ESL Curriculum).

Roll Call:

<i>Mr. Botero</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Mrs. Byrne</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. D'Amico</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Eckert</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Puskas</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Studint</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Svenningsen</i>	<i>Absent</i>

Motion Passes

CURRICULUM/POLICY:

A motion was presented by Mrs. Eckert, and seconded by Mrs. Puskas, to approve Curriculum/Policy Agenda Item 091626-S-12 through 091626-S-20.

091626-S-12 Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools resolved, to revise motion 081926-S-15 as follows: Parent/Teacher Conference days/evenings for the 2026-2027 school year (Note: These days are all early dismissal for students):

Tuesday, February 16, 2027, Day Conferences (2:00-4:00pm)

Wednesday, February 17, 2027, Evening Conferences (5:30-7:30pm):

Early Dismissal for Staff

Thursday, February 18, 2027, Evening Conferences (5:30-7:30pm): Early Dismissal for Staff.

Friday, February 19, 2027, Day Conferences (2:00-4:00pm)

091626-S-13 RESOLVED that the Mount Arlington Board of Education accept the New Jersey Inclusion Project (NJIP), K–12 Systemic Change Facilitation for the 2026-2027 school year.

091626-S-14 RESOLVED that the Mount Arlington Board of Education to approve the Statement of Assurance submissions for the District Professional Development Plans and the District Mentoring Plans for the 2026-2027 school year.

091626-S-15 RESOLVED to approve the submission of the Bi-Annual Statement of Assurance regarding the Use of Paraprofessional Staff for the 2026-2027 school year to the County Office.

091626-S-16 RESOLVED to approve the Mount Arlington Safety and Security Plan as on file in the Superintendent's and Principal's Offices.

091626-S-17 RESOLVED that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the designation of October 5-9, 2026 as the Week of Respect.

091626-S-18 RESOLVED to approve the designation of the week of October 19-23,

2026 as Mount Arlington School District School Safety and Violence Awareness Prevention Week.

091626-S-19 RESOLVED to approve the designation of October 23-31, 2026 as Red Ribbon Week.

091626-S-20 RESOLVED to approve the following fundraisers/events for the 2026-2027 school year:

- PTO Meetings at MAPS (9/16/26,10/21/26,11/18/26,12/16/26)
- PTO Book Fairs in the MAPS and Decker Media Centers (Decker 9/15/26-9/17/26 and MAPS 9/22/26-9/24/26)
- PTO Decker Theatre Week (Grades 1-5) 10/19/26-10/23/26 in the Decker Gym

Roll Call:

<i>Mr. Botero</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Mrs. Byrne</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. D'Amico</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Eckert</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Puskas</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Studint</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Svenningsen</i>	<i>Absent</i>

Motion Passes

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Finance:

- No Report

B. Personnel:

- Mrs. Studint stated that motions from the Personnel committee meeting are on the report for approval.

C. Building and Grounds:

- Mr. D'Amico stated that the fence was installed at Decker and security upgrades are coming along.

D. Curriculum and Policy:

- Mrs. Eckert stated the committee met to review the retention and promotion policies as well as the spokesperson policy in August and will be meeting again soon. The committee also review the Policy and Regulation 2340 regarding Field Trips. There will be a first reading at the October Board Meeting.

E. Negotiations:

- No Report

F. Town Council:

Mrs. Eckert gave the following report:

- The Halloween Bash is on October 17, 2026 from 3-5 pm at Fireman's Field; vendors should arrive between 1-1:45 pm for set up; if you interested in becoming a vendor there is a link on the Borough Website.
- Firemen's Field Playground remodel is complete; Ages 2-5 and 5-12 both have new equipment
- DPW did a great job of cleaning up trees and bushes throughout the Borough.
- The Baseball Field got a remodel too; it can now be used for home baseball games.

G. Parent Teachers Organization:

Mrs. Puskas gave the following report:

- A teacher breakfast was provided for the first staff in-service day as well as lunch for the new staff.
- Both schools were decorated to welcome back the staff and students on the first day of school.
- Decker Book Fair is the week of September 14th and MAPS is the week of September 21st.
- Free community movie night will be on September 25th at Fireman's Field at 7:00 pm.
- The Mum Sale will be held at Roxbury Garden Center until October 10th. You can Venmo the PTO and go pick up your order.
- There will be a new spirit wear vendor- details to follow.
- Teacher wish lists are up on PTO board.
- Theatre week for grades 1-5 is October 19-23 with a final performance in the evening of October 23rd.
- The Gertrude Hawk fundraiser is coming
- The Square One Art Fundraiser is coming to support playground funds.
- The 8th grade fundraiser, Buffalo Wild Wings, is Sept 25th. Please bring flyer and discount cards are on sale for \$20 each.

OTHER REPORTS:

Roxbury BOE

- Mrs. Byrne stated that Roxbury Board of Education had a meeting on Sept 14, 2026. At the meeting they had a HIB presentation and presented their 2026-

27 goals. Their next meeting Board of Education will be held on October 12, 2026.

Delegate to NJ School Board Association:

- The NJSBA convention is the week of October 19, 2026.

Delegate to Morris County School Board Association:

- No Report

Delegate to Educational Service Commission of Morris County:

- No Report

OLD BUSINESS:

- No Report

NEW BUSINESS:

- Mrs. Studint said the board meeting date in December will be changed. A new date will be announced.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. None

CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was presented by Mrs. Studint and seconded by Mrs. Eckert, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education move to Closed Session at 7:19 P.M to address Legal issues. Action will follow.

Voice Vote:

Yes: 5

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 2

Motion Passes

WHEREAS the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act (N.J.S.A.10:4-1 et seq.) expressly provide that a public body may move into Closed Session and exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which the public body discusses any of the nine areas set forth in N.J.S.A.10:4-12b; and

WHEREAS, the Mount Arlington Board of Education has determined it necessary to move to Closed Session to discuss legal issues, which are included in the aforesaid exceptions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mount Arlington Board of Education that it does hereby move into Closed Session pursuant to N.J.S.A.10:4-12b to discuss the aforesaid matters with a related action to follow, and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the aforesaid discussions shall be made public either at the Public Meeting following said Closed Session or at such time as any litigated personnel matters are concluded, or upon conclusion of any negotiations or discussions; or as otherwise specified; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect pursuant to law.

A motion was presented by Mrs. Studint, and seconded by Mrs. Eckert that the meeting return to Open Session at 8:02 P.M.

Voice Vote:

Yes: 5

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 2

Motion Passes

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was presented by Mr. D'Amico, and seconded by Mrs. Eckert, that the Regular meeting be adjourned. The motion was unanimously carried at 8:03 P.M.

Voice Vote:

Yes: 5

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 2

Motion Passed

Respectfully Submitted,



Mrs. Robin C. Tedesco

Interim School Business Administrator/Board of Education Secretary

Approved: