

THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

N.J. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meeting of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act the Woodland Park Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted on the door of the Woodland Park Board of Education Administration Building and posted on the District website, www.wpschools.org, under Legal Notices.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

Present: Kim Galbraith, Shannon Marren, Andrew Mingione, David Amanullah, Gina McQuin, Julissa Rodriguez, Jamie Zummo, Mark Salemi, Glen Grimes
Also Present: Michele Pillari, Marlena Cowan, Megan Oduyela

PUBLIC HEARING-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Please remember that this is a public meeting. Anything you say will be public record. As a result, pursuant to law, the Board Members cannot respond to you publicly concerning certain matters, such as those regarding an individual student. If there is a matter that you wish to remain private concerning personnel or students, please contact the Superintendent's office. In accordance with Bylaw 0167, statements will be limited to 3 minutes in duration.

No one wished to be heard.

227-81 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by SALEMI Seconded by MINGIONE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2026 regular and the August 31, 2026 special meetings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the August 24, 2026 regular meeting.

Roll Call: 9 YES

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Pillari reported the SSDS for reporting period 2 (January - June 2026)

- 4 confirmed HIBs and 37 HIB alleged HIBs
- The nature of the HIBs included:
 - 17 race
 - 21 other perceived or actual characteristics
 - 1 disability
 - 2 sexual orientation
- Discipline for the HIBS-
 - in-school suspension
 - Recommended remedial measures for all cases included restorative practices and student counseling
- Investigators on the cases:
 - Donna Farraye
 - Tara Byrnes
 - The status of all investigations are closed.
- There were 7 HIB-related programs offered district-wide.
Beatrice Gilmore had 8 additional programs, Charles Olbon had 11, Memorial had 13 and Preschool had 2.

Curriculum Office:

During the two professional development days prior to the return of students, all teachers participated in a learning session aligned with Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, as well as training in the 2022 Danielson Framework for Teaching which is the certified staff evaluation tool.

Students eligible for Multilingual (ML) support as well as targeted support in ELA and Math have been sent permission slips to receive the additional targeted instruction. As always, the goal of these programs is to provide the support and instruction needed for the students to master the skills and exit the programs.

Department of Special Education and Student Support Services:

Our BCBA's attended their yearly Handle with Care recertification training.

Our special education team and the preschool team met with our NJPIEP liaison to further develop our preschool inclusion model. We discussed the alignment of IEP goals to the preschool curriculum and standard as well as support provided to the general education teacher and students from the special education preschool teacher, case manager, and BCBA in the inclusion setting.

Our district was notified that the department has met all requirements for the 2025-2026 Education for Homeless Children and Youth Intensive Monitoring audit.

Preschool:

A big thank you goes out to our Preschool HSA for helping decorate all the schools with such a warm and welcoming atmosphere for the start of the school year! We appreciate the time and effort that went into decorating our schools and the wonderful Welcome Back banner. We would also like to extend an early thank you to our Preschool HSA for planning and organizing the staff breakfast this coming Monday. We are grateful for all that you do to support and celebrate our preschool staff!

On August 31, our Preschool teachers participated in a professional learning workshop focused on the process of supporting students with challenging behaviors. Mrs. Casanovas, our PIRS, presented a protocol and process to help teachers better understand the steps to take when concerns arise and how to reach out for support when working with students who demonstrate challenging behaviors. The teachers were also provided a review of the Big Five, providing strategies and guidance to support positive behavior and social-emotional development in the classroom. Our preschool teachers were actively engaged throughout the workshop, participating in discussions and reflecting on ways to apply these strategies to their classroom practices.

Our Preschool Puppy Paws has been making his way around our schools, visiting our preschool students and encouraging them to have a wonderful new school year! During his visits, our students are reminded of the Puppy Promises and the importance of following them throughout the school year:

P – Play and Learn Safely

A – Act Kind

W – Work Together

S – Show Responsibility

We are excited to see our students putting these promises into practice as they learn, play, and grow together!

Join us for our first Preschool Lunch & Learn on Wednesday, September 23! Ms. Petrullo will guide families through an Introduction to the Creative Curriculum, providing an overview of the curriculum and explaining how it is implemented within our preschool learning environments. Look out for our Weekly Eblast to join!

The beginning of the school year is an exciting time! During the first several weeks of school the teachers will be supporting children as they say goodbye to their families, and become familiar with the classroom and school routines. Whether children are new to preschool or not, expect that many will experience strong emotions - fear, anxiety, extreme excitement, sadness or frustration. You can support social emotional learning by encouraging them to talk about their feelings and reassuring them that you always come back to pick them up.

Al's Pals is an evidence-based social-emotional curriculum for children ages 3–6. Through engaging lessons, songs, puppets, and group activities, children learn to: Understand and manage their feelings, Make healthy choices, Solve problems and resolve conflicts, Build positive relationships, Develop kindness, empathy, and self-control. Our goal is to help children build the social and emotional skills they need to feel confident, successful, and ready to learn.

Start with Hello Week is September 21-25, 2026. Students are able to wear a green shirt on Wednesday, September 23. Please wear dress code bottoms and appropriate footwear.

CO:

We welcomed our new and returning families on our first day of school on September 2nd!
We are looking forward to our Back To School Night on Tuesday, September 22nd, where families will have the opportunity to meet their child’s teachers and learn more about the curriculum, programs, routines, and expectations for the school year.
Our first and second graders are remembering what it means to be a CO HERO and our new kindergartners are doing great adjusting to their new school and routines.

Beatrice Gilmore School:

The 2026–2027 school year is off to a wonderful start at Beatrice Gilmore School!

We welcomed our students and families at our first Ice Cream Social before the school year began. This special event provided an opportunity to reconnect with returning families, meet those who are new to BG, and build excitement for the year ahead. We extend our sincere thanks to the **BG HSA** for hosting such a fun and welcoming event.
We also enjoyed a successful **Back-to-School Night** on September 15th, where families met their child’s teachers and learned more about the curriculum, programs, routines, and expectations for the school year.
Our students have settled into their classrooms, established new routines, and begun building positive relationships with their teachers and classmates. The energy throughout the building has been wonderful, and we look forward to continuing a year filled with learning, growth, school spirit, and memorable experiences.

Memorial Middle School:

Memorial School welcomed our new and returning families to a new school year filled with opportunities to learn, grow, and succeed! Our school community is ready to begin the year with enthusiasm, positivity, and a strong commitment to supporting every student.
Memorial School held its annual Sorting Ceremony on Sept. 11 for 6th grade students. During the ceremony, 6th graders are sorted into houses, while being cheered on by the 7th and 8th graders who are ready to welcome them into their house.
Back to School Night is Sept. 23 from 6:30pm - 9:00pm.
We are in the selection process for our Mustang Ambassadors and Student Council.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Mrs. Cowan stated the Business Office is running smoothly. Significant progress has been made at Charles Olbon and the project is on schedule. The Board Office renovations are approximately halfway complete. We are waiting on pricing for siding and the potential replacement of the front retaining wall.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

227-82 - APPROVAL OF BILLS LIST

Motion by RODRIGUEZ Seconded by MCQUIN

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the attached list of bills in the amount of \$786,091.44, approved by finance committee chairperson.

<u>Bill List No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
#63	\$395,662.31
#66	\$ 35,028.87
#L64	\$ 40,400.26

Roll Call: 9 YES

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

The following items will be voted on by separate motion for each item.

PERSONNEL:

The following personnel items have been deemed to be non-controversial in a matter of routine business and will be voted on by one motion. Any item deemed controversial can be removed and voted on as a separate agenda item.

Motion by MCQUIN Seconded by GALBRAITH to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following personnel agenda numbers 227-83 through 227-96.

Roll Call: 9 YES

227-83- ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION – A. SAMRA

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of Amanda Samra, elementary teacher, effective October 23, 2026 or sooner if a replacement is found.

227-84- ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION – C. LENOIR

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of Cheryl Lenoir, district lunch aide, effective September 21, 2026.

227-85-APPROVE TO RESCIND APPOINTMENT – T. ISLAM

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to rescind the appointment of Tasnim Islam, part time aide, previously approved at the 7/20/26 meeting.

227-86-APPOINTMENT OF HIRE – J. RAMOS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Jeness Ramos, as a Pre-K nurse, (currently sub nurse) BA, Step 1, \$64,445, in accordance with current WPEA contract. Retroactive to September 1, 2026.

227-87-APPOINTMENT OF HIRE – LUNCH AIDE – Y. HERNANDEZ

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Yolaida Hernandez, as a lunch aide at BG, for the 2026-2027 school year, at a rate of \$20.68/hr., not to exceed 10 hours per week. No benefits. Effective September 22, 2026

227-88- RATIFY APPROVAL OF FAMILY LEAVE – M. SKRBIC

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to ratify approval of intermittent family leave under the Federal Family Leave Act, for Michele Skrbic, from September 1, 2026-December 30, 2026, using accumulated sick days.

227-89-APPROVAL OF MEDICAL LEAVE – L. ALTOMARE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve medical leave under the Federal Family Leave Act, for Lorraine Altomare, effective October 30, 2026-January 3, 2027, using accumulated sick days. Expected return to work, January 4, 2027.

227-90- REVISION OF LUNCH AIDE HOURS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to revise lunch aide hours to reflect 2 hours per day, at all locations, for all lunch aides.

227-91-APPROVAL TO RESCIND STIPEND POSITIONS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to rescind the following stipend position:

Sherry Toole	BG & CO Art Shows	Previously approved 6/22/26
Hannah Arp	Bus duty AM at CO	Previously approved 7/20/26

227-92-APPROVE TO REVISE RESOLUTION 227-23-APPROVAL OF STAFF STIPENDS-2026-2027

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to revise resolution 227-23 to reflect stipend position for Katie Williams for both AM & PM Bus Duty, at \$1,750.

227-93-APPROVE TO REVISE RESOLUTION 227-52-APPOINTMENT OF HIRE – PT CUSTODIAN – M. GALLO

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to revise resolution 227-52, to reflect a start date of 8/27/26. (Previously approved for 9/1/26)

227-94-RATIFY APPROVAL OF PAID ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to ratify approval of paid administrative leave for employee ID #4480, effective August 25, 2026 – until further notice.

227-95-WORKSHOP/TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT APPROVAL

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve/ratify approval the attendance of and costs of attendance including registration fees and statutorily authorized travel expenditures for the following listed district employees for the 2026-2027 school year.

Name	Activity	Date	Fee	Travel/Hotel	Total
Taylor Andresen	2026 Arts Educator Professional Development Retreat	10/26/26	NA	NA	NA
Deena Matakah	Intervention & Assessment of Developmental Language Disorders in CLD Populations	Self-paced	\$50	NA	\$50
Alyson Petrullo	PIC Seminar Cohort #1	9/24-9/29 2026 10/13, 10/14, 11/10, 11/12, 12/1 1/5, 1/6, 2/4, 2/23, 2/24, 3/25	\$1,820	\$155.25	\$1,975.25
Sharon Tomback	Bld Foundation for Success Science	9/16/26	NA	\$39.54	\$39.54
Sharon Tomback	Hot Issues in School Law	10/27/26	\$125	NA	\$125
Krystina Reilly	NJPSA Fall Conference	10/15 & 10/16 26	\$450	\$151.42	\$601.42
Giovanna Irizarry	Hot Issues in Special Education Law	12/8/26	\$125	NA	\$125
Meghan McGinnis	NGSS Modeling & the NJSLA Science	12/11/26	\$200	NA	\$200
Meghan McGinnis	G&T Planning Meeting Passaic County	9/17/26	NA	NA	NA
Donna Farraye	NJ 11 th Suicide Prevention Conference	9/10/26	NA	NA	NA
Donna Farraye	Restorative Justice Tier 2	9/16/26	NA	NA	NA
Donna Farraye	Restorative Justice Tier 3	10/13/26	NA	NA	NA
Donna Farraye Mariola Lopata	NJ Fall Conference for School Profess.	10/22/26	NA	\$10.35/ea	\$10.35/ea
Elis Francisco	MTSS & AI	12/8/26	NA	\$47.00	\$47.00
Jordan Harkins Aimee Soto	Protecting Students in the Digital Realm	10/22/26	NA	\$11.75/ea	\$23.50
Courtney Ramirez	Teachers & Students Minspeaking Toget	9/25/26	\$49.00	NA	\$49.00
Cheryl Eustic	How Internet Impacts Children Mental Health	10/22/26	NA	\$10.34	\$10.34

227-96-APPROVAL OF MENTORSHIP – V. COWAN

RESOLVED, that the Woodland Park Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby approves the School Business Administrator Residency/Mentorship for V. Marlena Cowan, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, as required for completion of the New Jersey School Business Administrator certification process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board approves Colin Monahan to serve as the approved mentor for the School Business Administrator Residency Program, in accordance with the requirements established by the New Jersey Department of Education and applicable program guidelines; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the payment of the required mentorship/residency fee in accordance with the approved mentor agreement and program requirements, subject to the availability of funds and all applicable Board policies and procedures.

FINANCE:

The following finance items have been deemed to be non-controversial in a matter of routine business and will be voted on by one motion. Any item deemed controversial can be removed and voted on as a separate agenda item.

Motion by MCQUIN Seconded by ZUMMO to accept the recommendation of the Business Administrator to approve the following finance agenda numbers 227-97 through 227-99.

Roll Call: 9 YES

227-97-APPROVAL -NRESC –TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT – 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the transportation contract with NRESC for the following 2026-2027 bus routes:

Route#	School (s)	Contractor	# of Students	Estimated Cost per Route (+ surcharge)	Starting Date
1002	Beatrice Gilmore – WP	American Star	13	65,520.00+3,931.20	9/2/26-6/22/27
1003	Memorial School – WP	American Star	8	65,520.00+3,931.20	9/2/26-6/22/27

1004	Memorial MS – WP	J&W Financial	8	53,640.00+3,218.40	9/2/26-6/22/27
1005	Memorial MS – WP	J&W Financial	8	53,640.00+3,218.40	9/2/26-6/22/27
1006	Charles Olbon – WP	J&W Financial	8	43,020.00+2,581.20	9/2/26-6/22/27
1007	Charles Olbon – WP	J&W Financial	7	43,020.00+2,581.20	9/2/26-6/22/27
1030	Charles Olbon/Memorial Sch	R & May Trans	1	33,300.00+1,998.00	9/2/26-6/22/27
1039	Children’s Therapy Center	R & May Trans	1	23,103.75+1,386.23	9/8/26-6/23/27
1072	Godwin School/Highland	American Star	1	31,584.50+1,895.07	9/3/26-6/24/27
1133	South Berg Jointure -Maywood	Safeguard Trans	2	47,880.00+2,872.80	9/3/26-6/23/27
1134	South Berg Jointure - Lodi	Tasneem Trans	1	11,760.00+705.60	9/3/26-6/23/27

227-98-APPROVAL OF CONTRACT – PHOENIX CENTER 2026-2027

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve contract with Phoenix Center, to provide related services for student ID#34711, at a rate of \$98.50/hr., not to exceed 3 hours per week, per service, for the 2026-2027 school year.

227-99-APPROVAL OF CONTRACT – CCBH INC.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve contract with CCBH, Inc., to provide home instruction to student ID#33898, at \$105/hr., up to 10 hours per week, effective September 2, 2026 –June 30, 2027.

POLICY:

227-100-APPROVAL OF NEW POLICIES & REGULATIONS – 2ND READING & ADOPTION

Motion by SALEMI Seconded by RODRIGUEZ

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the 2nd reading & adoption of the following new policies:

POLICY/REGULATION #	POLICY/REGULATION	MANDATED/RECOMMENDED
2365	Acceptable Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)	Recommended
0162.01	Legal Notices	Mandated

Roll Call: 9 YES

PUBLIC HEARING

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No one wished to be heard

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

The Open Public Meeting Act, authorizes a public body to meet in Executive or Private Session under limited circumstances and WHEREAS said law requires the Board to adopt a resolution at a public meeting before it can meet in such Executive or Private Session. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF WOODLAND PARK THAT:

- 1) It does hereby determine that it is necessary to meet in Executive Session to discuss a personnel and/or litigation matter or contract matter.
- 2) The matter(s) discussed will be made public when confidentiality is no longer required.
- 3) Meeting will be resumed at conclusion of Executive Session.
- 4) The board does/does not expect to take action after Executive Session.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 7:13 p.m. by RODRIGUEZ, seconded by MINGIONE

Voice Vote: 9 YES

Motion to return to Regular Session at 8:17 p.m. by MARREN, seconded by RODRIGUEZ

Voice Vote: 9 YES

After Executive Session the following motion was brought to the floor:

227-4A - TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT– EMPLOYEE ID #4484

Motion by: RODRIGUEZ Seconded by: SALEMI

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve termination of employment for employee ID #4484, effective November 20, 2026.

Roll Call: 9 YES

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. by SALEMI, Seconded by RODRIGUEZ

Voice Vote: 9 YES

WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION
EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Dr. Pillari reported on HIB #2027-01
- The Board discussed personnel issues
- The Board discussed student matters
- The Board discussed options for a personnel sign in device
- The Board discussed SRO service agreement