MENDHAM TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BROOKSIDE, NEW JERSEY
MIDDLE SCHOOL MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026, 7:30 PM

I. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. Flag Salute - Mrs. Carrino-Tamasi led the flag salute.

III. Roll Call of the Board of Education

Mrs. Elisabeth Carrino-Tamasi	President	Present
Dr. Rekha Mandel	Vice President	Absent
Mrs. Cynthia Brusco		Present
Mrs. Natasha Crossan		Present
Mr. Peter Dumovic		Present
Mr. Thomas Keeling		Present
Dr. Christina Klausner		Absent

Two (2) members of the public were in the audience.

IV. Sunshine Law – Mrs. Carrino-Tamasi read the following statement
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 meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act, the Mendham Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof posted in the Mendham Township Board of Education Office, sent to the Clerk of Mendham Township, and the Observer Tribune and the Daily Record. This is an official meeting.

V. Superintendent's Report
- NJSBA Ethics Training - Mr. Paul Pinerio
- District Updates, News, and Events

Vision 2030 and Board Goal Monitoring

The administrative team continues to move from strategic planning into implementation of the district's Vision 2030 priorities. Initial monitoring updates are being organized for the Board's committees, with attention to academic excellence, student experience, climate and wellness, operational effectiveness, and responsible stewardship. This monitoring process will allow the Board to follow progress throughout the year and connect district initiatives, evidence, and outcomes directly to the approved goals.

Teaching, Learning, and Student Support

Our academic and student-support systems are underway across both schools. The fall mCLASS DIBELS assessment window has opened, providing important early literacy data that will help teachers identify student strengths and areas requiring additional support. MTSS teams are established in both buildings and are meeting regularly following their initial training. This work reflects our continued commitment to ensuring that every child is known, challenged, inspired, and provided with timely support.

The district is also continuing thoughtful work related to classroom technology, artificial intelligence, and screen time. Our developing position emphasizes that technology should be evaluated according to the quality and purpose of the learning experience—not simply the number of minutes a student spends using a device. Technology and AI should strengthen instruction, increase accessibility, support creativity and critical thinking, and produce measurable educational value while preserving developmentally appropriate opportunities for collaboration, movement, discussion, and hands-on learning.

Parent University: *Screenagers – Generation AI*

Our first Parent University program of the year will feature *Screenagers: Generation AI* on Wednesday, October 28, at 6:30 p.m. at Mendham Township Middle School. The program will explore how artificial intelligence and digital technology are affecting children, families, learning, and decision-making. This event is intended to provide families with practical information while supporting a balanced community conversation about the opportunities and challenges associated with emerging technology.

Referendum Community Open House

Planning continues for a community open house highlighting the improvements completed through the district's referendum projects. The proposed program will provide residents with an opportunity to tour both schools, see the completed work, meet members of the administrative team, and hear directly from students serving as guides at selected locations. We are also beginning to document lessons learned, project successes, and recommendations that can serve as a resource for future Boards of Education and district administrations.

Student Voice and Community Storytelling

The district is continuing to expand opportunities for student voice and community engagement. The selection process for the eighth-grade student representative to the Board of Education is underway. This position will provide the Board with regular insight into student experiences while introducing students to educational governance and civic leadership.

Through our #WeAreMendham initiative, we are also gathering stories that highlight the accomplishments, interests, experiences, and contributions of our students and staff. Teachers

and administrators are being invited to recommend individuals and programs whose stories may not always be visible outside the schools. This work will help the broader community better understand the people, programs, and experiences that make Mendham Township special.

Statewide Education Update

I recently participated in an NJASA Executive Committee meeting that included updates on several statewide issues relevant to public school districts. Discussions included school funding, healthcare costs, transportation operations and staffing, teacher certification and shortage areas, artificial intelligence, and student rights.

Of particular interest was continuing statewide work related to transportation efficiency, driver credentialing, vendor bidding, and alternative transportation providers. NJASA is also developing recommendations concerning healthcare cost containment and the availability of reliable data regarding projected savings. These issues remain important because they can directly affect district budgets, staffing, and long-term planning. I will continue monitoring these developments and share any changes that may have a direct impact on Mendham Township.

Looking Ahead

As we move further into the school year, our attention remains focused on strong classroom instruction, early identification of student needs, responsible technology use, family engagement, safe and efficient operations, and transparent monitoring of district and Board goals. I look forward to sharing additional evidence of progress and celebrating the work of our students and staff in the weeks ahead.

VI. School Business Administrator's Report

The Business Office continues to work through the beginning of the 2026–2027 fiscal year. We are monitoring expenditures and revenues, creating invoices, processing purchase orders and payments, and completing account reconciliations.

In transportation, we continue to look for opportunities to maximize the use of our District-owned fleet and expand shared-service opportunities with neighboring districts. This remains a focus as we work to generate additional transportation revenue while using our existing resources as efficiently as possible.

On the facilities side, we continue to address routine maintenance items as they arise and are still working on the Phase III punch list for the referendum project.

Overall, the Business Office is focused on closing out the prior year and referendum work while continuing to strengthen our financial and capital planning for the years ahead.

Dates to remember –

- ➢ Morris County School Boards Association meeting on Wednesday, September 23, at Montville Township High School.
- ➢ Tuesday, October 13, 2026 – Work Session Meeting at MTMS
- ➢ NJ School Boards Association – October 19 through 22, 2026 in Atlantic City.
- ➢ Tuesday, October 27, 2026 – Regular Session Meeting at MTMS

VII. Board President's Report - None.

VIII. Correspondence - None.

IX. Committee Reports

X. Consent Items

Approval of Minutes

Regular Session Minutes: August 18, 2026
Executive Session Minutes: August 18, 2026

Work Session Minutes: August 25, 2026
Executive Session Minutes: August 25, 2026

Curriculum and School Programs

1. **Paraprofessional Staff 2026-2027** *(Attachment)*
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the submission of the Paraprofessional Staff Statement of Assurance for the 2026-2027 school year.

2. **Mendham Township School District Calendar 2027-2028** *(Attachment)*
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the Mendham Township School District Calendar for the 2027-2028 school year.

3. **Middle School Building Goals** *(Attachment)*
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education adopts the Middle School Building Goals for the 2026-2027 school year.

4. **Week of Respect, School Violence Awareness Week, and Red Ribbon Week for the 2026-2027 school year** *(Attachments)*
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the attached activities to be held at the Mendham Township Middle School in observance of the Week of Respect, School Violence Awareness Week, and Red Ribbon Week for the 2026-2027 school year.

5. **Field Trips** *(Attachments)*
BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the attached field trips for the 2026-2027 school year.

6. **Contracts with Anne Hunkler**
BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Anne Hunkler Karanikas for contracted Behavioral Consultation within the school from 08/31/26 to 06/15/27 for one (1) student (ID# 16035759) as per the IEP for 3 hours per week for a total of 108 hours @ $80/hr. not to exceed a total of $8,640.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Anne Hunkler Karanikas for contracted Behavioral Consultation within the school from 08/31/26 to 06/15/27 for one (1) student (ID# 16058583) as per the IEP for 3 hours per week for a total of 108 hours @ $80/hr. not to exceed a total of $8,640.00.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Anne Hunkler Karanikas for contracted Behavioral Consultation within the school from 08/31/26 to 06/15/27 for one (1) student (ID# 16149916) as per the IEP for 3 hours per week for a total of 108 hours @ $80/hr. not to exceed a total of $8,640.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Anne Hunkler Karanikas for contracted Behavioral Consultation within the school from 08/31/26 to 06/15/27 for one (1) student (ID# 16568830) as per the IEP for 3 hours per week for a total of 108 hours @ $80/hr. not to exceed a total of $8,640.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Anne Hunkler Karanikas for contracted Behavioral Consultation within the school from 08/31/26 to 06/15/27 for one (1) student (ID# 15659735) as per the IEP for 2.5 hours per week for a total of 90 hours @ $80/hr. not to exceed a total of $7,200.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Anne Hunkler Karanikas for contracted Behavioral Consultation within the school from 08/31/26 to 06/15/27 for one (1) student (ID# 14489107) as per the IEP for 2 hours per week for a total of 72 hours @ $80/hr. not to exceed a total of $5,760.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Anne Hunkler Karanikas for contracted Behavioral Consultation within the school from 08/31/26 to 06/15/27 for one (1) student (ID# 14738813) as per the IEP for 2 hours per week for a total of 72 hours @ $80/hr. not to exceed a total of $5,760.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Anne Hunkler Karanikas for contracted Behavioral Consultation within the school from

08/31/26 to 06/15/27 for one (1) student (ID# 15531086) as per the IEP for 2 hours per week for a total of 72 hours @ $80/hr. not to exceed a total of $5,760.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Anne Hunkler Karanikas for contracted Behavioral Consultation within the school from 08/31/26 to 06/15/27 for one (1) student (ID# 15759120) as per the IEP for 2 hours per week for a total of 72 hours @ $80/hr. not to exceed a total of $5,760.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Anne Hunkler Karanikas for contracted Behavioral Consultation within the school from 08/31/26 to 06/15/27 for one (1) student (ID# 16185412) as per the IEP for 2 hours per week for a total of 72 hours @ $80/hr. not to exceed a total of $5,760.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Anne Hunkler Karanikas for contracted Behavioral Consultation within the school from 08/31/26 to 06/15/27 for one (1) student (ID# 16246068) as per the IEP for 2 hours per week for a total of 72 hours @ $80/hr. not to exceed a total of $5,760.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Anne Hunkler Karanikas for contracted Behavioral Consultation within the school from 08/31/26 to 06/15/27 for one (1) student (ID# 15729264) as per the IEP for 1.5 hours per week for a total of 54 hours @ $80/hr. not to exceed a total of $4,320.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Anne Hunkler Karanikas for contracted Behavioral Consultation within the school from 08/31/26 to 06/15/27 for one (1) student (ID# 13426451) as per the IEP for 1 hour per week for a total of 36 hours @ $80/hr. not to exceed a total of $2,880.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Anne Hunkler Karanikas for contracted Behavioral Consultation within the school from 08/31/26 to 06/15/27 for one (1) student (ID# 14430010) as per the IEP for 1 hour per week for a total of 36 hours @ $80/hr. not to exceed a total of $2,880.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Anne Hunkler Karanikas for contracted Behavioral Consultation within the school from 08/31/26 to 06/15/27 for one (1) student (ID# 15360987) as per the IEP for 1 hour per week for a total of 36 hours @ $80/hr. not to exceed a total of $2,880.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Anne Hunkler Karanikas for contracted Behavioral Consultation within the school from 08/31/26 to 06/15/27 for one (1) student (ID# 13292301) as per the IEP for .5 hours per week for a total of 18 hours @ $80/hr. not to exceed a total of $1,440.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Anne Hunkler Karanikas for contracted Behavioral Consultation within the school from 08/31/26 to 06/15/27 for one (1) student (ID# 14532735) as per the IEP for .5 hours per week for a total of 18 hours @ $80/hr. not to exceed a total of $1,440.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Anne Hunkler Karanikas for contracted Behavioral Consultation within the school from 08/31/26 to 06/15/27 for 504/I&RS students for a total of 8 hours per month for a total of 12 hours @ $80/hr. not to exceed a total of $960.00.

Operations and Finance

1. **Certification Reports**
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education certify, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(a), that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures which in total exceed the line item appropriation and

   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-9, N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8, and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(B), after review of the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's monthly financial reports for August 2026 that no major accounts and fund balances in the 2026/2027 budget have been over expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

2. **Board Secretary's Report**
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the August 2026 Board Secretary's Reports.

3. **Treasurer's Report**
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the August 2026 Treasurer's Reports.

4. **August 2026 Transfer Reports**
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the August 2026 transfer report.

5. **September 2026 Bills List**
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the September 2026 Bills List. This includes payroll checks N5638 through N5640.

Fund 10 - Treasurer Account	$ 39,092.43
Fund 11 - Treasurer Account	$1,760.992.01
Fund 12 - Treasurer Account	$ 42,701.76

Fund 20 - Special Revenue/Grants	$	1,598.13
Fund 30 - Referendum Account	$	21,850.00
Fund 60 - Cafeteria Account	$	1,042.75
Total:		$1,867,277.08

6. **Use of District Facilities** *(Attachment)*
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the attached use of facility applications for the 2026-2027 school year, with the right to cancel based on school events and needs.

7. **District Travel** *(Attachment)*
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Board of Education approves the attached travel events in agreement with Chapter 53, Public Law 2007, NJSA 18A:11-12, NJAC 6A:23A-1. All mileage will be reimbursed at the maximum NJ Circular 08-19-OMB rate (currently $0.47 per mile).

Personnel and Human Resources

1. **Leave of Absence - Jeffrey Herring**
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves Jeffrey Herring, Elementary School Teacher, for a leave of absence commencing October 12, 2026, under the Federal Family Medical Leave (FMLA) & the NJ Family Leave Act (NJFLA).

   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves Jeffrey Herring with a return to work date of November 2, 2026.

2. **Leave of Absence – Amy Bond**
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves Amy Bond, Bus Driver, for a leave of absence commencing on November 9, 2026, utilizing 27 sick days under the Federal Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves Amy Bond with a return to work date of December 21, 2026, pending re-evaluation and certification from a physician.

3. **Revised Middle School Schedule C Stipend Positions for 2026-2027**
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the revised 2026-2027 Co-Curricular Stipend positions for Middle School:

CO-CURRICULAR Activities (Schedule C)

Activities	2026-2027 Salary	Staff Member

Girls Field Hockey JV (1/2 Stipend)	$2,875.00	Amanda Porter
Girls Lacrosse	$5,750.00	Carol Hueston

4. **Elizabeth Haversang, Elementary School Nurse - Summer Hours**
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves payment to Elizabeth Haversang, Elementary School Nurse, for summer hours, not to exceed 20 hours, at the rate of $39.96 per hour.

5. **Abigail Cogott, WGU Student and Substitute Teacher**
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Abigail Cogott, WGU Student, to complete clinical observation requirement with Eugenia Mastrogiannakos, Elementary School teacher.

6. **Chaperones for the 2026-2027 School Year** *(Attachment)*
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the attached chaperone list for the 2026-2027 school year.

7. **New - Substitute Teacher**
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Elizabeth Miseo, pending completion of paperwork, as a substitute teacher for the 2026-2027 school year at the current rate of $125.00 per full day and $62.50 per half day.

8. **Merit Goals – Superintendent of Schools** *(Attachments)*
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the attached Merit Goals for Dr. Salvatore M. Constantino for the school year 2026-2027.

9. **Merit Goals – Assistant Superintendent** *(Attachment)*
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the attached Merit Goals for Dr. Robert Koroski for the school year 2026-2027.

10. **Merit Goals – Business Administrator** *(Attachment)*
    BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the attached Merit Goals for Donna Mosner for the school year 2026-2027.

11. **Merit Goals – Elementary School Principal** *(Attachment)*
    BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the attached Merit Goals for Dr. Julianne Kotcho for the school year 2026-2027.

12. **Merit Goals – Middle School Principal** *(Attachment)*

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the attached Merit Goals for Dr. Patrick Ciccone for the school year 2026-2027.

13. **Merit Goals – Elementary School Assistant Principal** *(Attachment)*
BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the attached Merit Goals for Mrs. Alyssa Ridente for the school year 2026-2027.

14. **Merit Goals – Middle School Assistant Principal** *(Attachment)*
BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the attached Merit Goals for Mr. Scott Byers for the school year 2026-2027.

Policy and Planning

1. **First Reading** *(Attachments)*
BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the first reading of the following policies and regulations:

P 2415.30	Title 1 - Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care (M)
P 2418	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - Students (M)
R 2418	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - Students (M)
R 2460	Special Education (M)
R 2460.9	Special Education - Transition from Early Intervention Programs To Preschool Programs (M)

2. **Second Reading** *(Attachments)*
BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the second reading and adoption of the following policies and regulations:

P 1240	Evaluation of Superintendent (M)
R 1240	Evaluation of Superintendent (M)
P 1510	Americans with Disabilities Act (M)
R 1510	Americans with Disabilities Act (M)

Mrs. Crossan moved to approve the Committee Reports, and the Consent Items for September 22, 2026; Approval of all Monthly Meeting minutes, Curriculum & Instruction items 1-6, Operations & Finance items 1–7, Personnel & Human Resources items 1-14, Policy and Planning items 1-2, seconded by Mr. Keeling, and the motion was CARRIED in a roll call vote: Mrs. Crossan; yes, Mr. Dumovic; yes, Mr. Keeling; yes, Mrs. Brusco; yes, and Mrs. Carrino Tamasi; yes, – motions carry.

XI. ACTION ITEMS

Curriculum and School Programs

1. **Week of Respect, School Violence Awareness Week, and Red Ribbon Week for the 2026-2027 school year** *(Attachments)*
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the attached activities to be held at the Mendham Township Elementary School in observance of the Week of Respect, School Violence Awareness Week, and Red Ribbon Week for the 2026-2027 school year.

2. **Contract with Bayada Home Health Care, Inc.**
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Bayada Home Health Care, Inc. for a contracted 1:1 Bus Nurse from 09/17/2026 to 06/30/27 for 30 hours per week @ $72/hr.

Personnel and Human Resources

1. **Leave of Absence – Deborah Templin (REVISED)**
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves Deborah Templin, Bus Driver, for a leave of absence commencing on August 31, 2026, utilizing 26 sick days under the Federal Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves Deborah Templin with a return-to-work date of October 8, 2026.

2. **Extra Hours - One-To-One Student Support – Hannah Dunlevy and Sierra Dunn**
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves extra hours, at an hourly rate of $48.91 for Hannah Dunlevy and $47.50 for Sierra Dunn to provide one-to-one support for student #16067793 and the student's participation in the Elementary School Choir from September 22, 2026 through January 25, 2027.

Mrs. Crossan moved to approve the Action Item for September 22, 2026; Curriculum and School Programs Items 1-2 and Personnel and Human Resources Items 1-2, seconded by Mrs. Brusco, and the motion was CARRIED in a roll call vote: Mrs. Brusco; yes, Mrs. Crossan; yes, Mr. Dumovic; yes, Mr. Keeling; yes, and Mrs. Carrino-Tamasi; yes – motions carry.

XII. Verbal Communications from the Public

Mrs. Fox Barratt - Roxiticus Road - Expressed concerns about the "We Are Mendham" website and said it does not represent the broader community. She sent an OPRA request and received the information back, but it did not include anything about Mendham Borough or the

High School, which are both part of Mendham. She is concerned that the product does not match the name and urged the Board of Education to take it down until it is complete.

XIII. Adjourn to Closed EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, Chapter 231 P.L. 1975, also known as the Sunshine Law, authorizes a public body to meet in executive session under certain limited circumstances; and

WHEREAS, said law requires the board to adopt a resolution at a public meeting before it can meet in such an executive or private session.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of Mendham Township that it does hereby determine that it is necessary to meet in executive session at this time to discuss personnel matters. The matters discussed will be made public if and when confidentiality is no longer required, and action pursuant to said discussion shall take place only at a public meeting.

Moved by Mrs. Crossan, seconded by Mrs. Brusco, to move to Closed Executive Session.
The Board adjourned to Closed Executive Session at 8:47 pm.

XIV. Reconvene Open Regular Session Meeting

Moved by Mr. Keeling, seconded by Mrs. Crossan, to reconvene the Regular Session Meeting at 8:52 pm., unanimously carried by voice vote.

XV. Discussion - None.

XVI. Adjournment

Moved by Mrs. Brusco, seconded by Mr. Keeling, to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting of September 22, 2026. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Mosner
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary