Princeton Public Schools

Board Meeting Highlights

September 22, 2026

These highlights are an unofficial summary of actions taken and topics discussed during a public session of the Princeton Public Schools Board of Education on September 22, 2026. They are intended to provide timely information to our community, but do not represent the official minutes of the meeting.

You can watch the full Board meeting on the district's YouTube channel.
The minutes for August 18, 2026, were adopted.

Superintendent's Report

PPS Superintendent Dr. Mike LaSusa opened the meeting by celebrating a successful start to the school year across all district buildings, noting positive feedback from principals and staff regarding Back-to-School Nights. Looking ahead, the Board finalized the district calendars, officially adding Diwali as a recognized holiday for the 2027-2028 school year and adjusting scheduling around Presidents' Day and Labor Day to better accommodate students and staff. The first day of school in 2027 will be August 30, and the final day of school will be June 9.

Academic Assessment & Testing Data

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Kim Tew presented the preliminary results for the state's New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA). The district continues to perform well overall, with 91.1% of students graduation-ready in English Language Arts (ELA) and 86.9% in Mathematics, both comfortably exceeding state averages.

However, the data also highlighted ongoing opportunity gaps, particularly for Black, Hispanic, Multilingual, and Special Education students. The curriculum team discussed expanding targeted interventions, such as Math and English lab supports, and emphasizing Universal Design for Learning (UDL) so general education teachers can better plan for all learners.

Public Comment

Representatives from Princeton Parents for Black Children and Not in Our Town presented the board with an independent equity report card. The organizations

assessed the district's progress on fulfilling the recommendations of the 2017-2018 equity audit.

Superintendent Contract Hearing

The Board unanimously approved a resolution to extend Superintendent Dr. LaSusa's contract by an additional year, securing his leadership through 2031. Board members and public commenters praised his fiscal responsibility, ~~deep~~ commitment to students, and ability to navigate complex challenges.

Dr. LaSusa expressed gratitude for the vote, sharing, "This community has been so embracing and energizing and warm and welcoming to me that I love being here and I'm going to keep on trying to do my best on behalf of the students and the school district as a whole."

Student Board Members' Report

The Board welcomed seniors Zach Nelson and Alex Brown as the two new student board members for the 2026-2027 school year. Zach provided an update on high school student life, including daily Spirit Week themes ranging from pajama day to a Friday pep rally. Homecoming weekend will feature athletic games, a spikeball tournament, and an outdoor movie screening of *Spider-Man: Homecoming*. Alex announced the highly anticipated performing arts selections for the year: the fall play will be *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, and the spring musical will be *Singin' in the Rain*.

Committee Reports

Long-Term Planning & Operations

The committee met to discuss planning and budget modeling, focusing heavily on projecting the impacts of external budget drivers like healthcare costs and charter school tuition. The committee also reviewed ongoing referendum projects and facility needs.

Personnel

The committee reviewed the rollout of the Genesis evaluation model. The committee also extended a warm welcome to the district's newest hires, noting they bring incredible enthusiasm and energy to our schools.

Policy

The committee continues its review and update of field trip policies. Additionally, the committee announced that due to ongoing construction at Littlebrook Elementary School, voting will be relocated to Riverside Elementary School this year. The group also discussed broader advocacy efforts regarding the public employee healthcare crisis facing New Jersey districts and the proposed legislation in Trenton.

Student Equity and Achievement

The committee reviewed the recent Humanities curriculum audit for grades 6 through 12. The committee established five core priorities moving forward: improving the overall coherence of the curriculum, establishing greater consistency in assessment and grading expectations, strengthening academic rigor, creating more advanced educational opportunities, and expanding professional learning for teachers.

Retirements

Board President Dafna Kendal recognized the retirement of Eric Karch after 32 years of dedicated service to the district, saying, “We want to thank him for his leadership, and we want to wish him a very long and healthy retirement.”

The consent vote passed, and the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for October 27th.

The community is invited to attend the upcoming Convocation event on October 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Princeton High School Performing Arts Center.