Magnolia School District
Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Minutes
September 15, 2026
6:30 P.M.

Mr. Nick D'Amico opened the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m., leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Roll Call

Mrs. Rebecca Ammen	**Present**
Mr. Richard Cruz	**Present**
Mr. Nick D'Amico	**Present**
Mr. Mark Godfrey	**Present**
Mrs. Jennifer Jackson	**Present**
Mr. Dale Martin	**Present**
Mrs. Karen Sorbello	**Present**

Other Attendees

Mrs. Karen Macpherson, Superintendent
Mr. Greg Gontowski, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Mr. Frank Cavallo, Solicitor

Mission Statement

Mission Statement was read by Mr. Nick D'Amico

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Session Board of Education meeting held on August 11, 2026.

Motioned by Rebecca Ammen, Second by Dale Martin

Vote: To approve Minutes
Voice Vote. All in favor -- Richard Cruz – Abstained (6-0-1)**

Motion Approved

Open Audience Participation I

None

BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

State and Local

October 1, 2026 – Haddon Township High School next meeting

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent's Report

Informational Items

A. Informational Items

1. The 2026-2027 school year is off to a very successful start. The opening days went smoothly, with no significant issues or concerns reported. Staff and students have transitioned well into the new school year, and we are pleased with the positive start and strong sense of school community.

2. Back to School Night will be held on Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 5:30 pm.

3. Negotiation meetings are scheduled during the next few months,

Curriculum/ Programs

B. Curriculum/Programs

1. Middle School Math is participating in a research study related to high impact instructional Practices and highly ranked curriculum.

2. In grades K-8, during WIN, we are implementing digital well being and online safety practices.

Interdistrict

C. Interdistrict

(No items at this time)

Public Relations

D. Public Relations/Liaison

(No items at this time)

Student/Parental Issues and Concerns

E. Student/Parental Issues and Concerns

(No items at this time)

Buildings and Grounds

F. Buildings and Grounds

1. A fire drill was held on August 6, 2026.

2. A shelter-in-place security drill was held on August 26, 2026.

3. Bus Drills were held on September 10, 2026, at the following times at the front of the building, Supervised by Principal Paul Sorrentino.

Grade	Time
PSD/MD	8:45 am
Preschool	8:45 am
Kindergarten	9:00 am
1st Grade	9:15 am
2nd Grade	9:30 am
3rd Grade	9:45 am
4th Grade	10:00 am
5th Grade	10:15 am
6th Grade	10:30 am
7th Grade	10:45 am
8th Grade	11:00 am

Negotiations

G. Negotiations/Contractual *(Executive Session)*
(No items at this time)

Harrassment, Intimidation, or Bullying (HIB)

H. Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying (HIB)
(No items at this time)

Miscellaneous

I. Miscellaneous
(No items at this time)

Principals Report

J. Principal's Report

1. The Principal's Report will resume in October.

Items for Board Approval

Motion to approve, on the Recommendation of the Superintendent, Personnel Items 1 through 10.

A. Personnel

Approval of Melanie Dilworth as Teacher Assistant

1. Approval of Melanie Dilworth as a teacher Assistant, Step 16, at a salary of $27,173.00, with single medical benefits, retroactive to September 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. (Attachment A1)

Revision: Employee #629 maternity leave

2. Approval to revise a maternity leave of absence for employee #629, effective August 31, 2026, through December 23, 2026, returning to work on January 4, 2027.

Medical Leave of Absence – Employee #673

3. Approval of a medical leave of absence for employee #673, effective October 16, 2026, through January 8, 2027, returning to work on January 11, 2027.

N. Meehl & Nicole Lopez – attend Autism Conference October 23, 2026

4. Approval of Nicole Lopez and Nicholas Meehl, Special Education Teachers, to attend the Autism NJ 44th Annual Autism Conference on Friday, October 23, 2026. Registration ($300.00 each), Mileage, and miscellaneous expenses will be funded through Title II (200-500).

Erin Sorrentino Coursework at Rutgers University

5. Approval of Erin Sorrentino to complete coursework at Rutgers University during the 2026-2027 School year, with reimbursement in accordance with the Magnolia School Education Association (MSEA) contract.

Approval – Christine Radcliff – Kindergarten Orientation

6. Approval of the following staff member to participate in kindergarten orientation, not to exceed 3 hours. Funds to be paid from the general fund:

Last Name	First Name	Rate
Radcliff	Christine	$17.63/hour

Colleen Roehr – Approval for curriculum writing.

7. Approval of the following employee for curriculum writing to be paid from general funds:

Last Name	First Name	Rate	Hours	Not to Exceed	Curriculum
Roehr	Colleen	$40.00	Up to 24	$960.00	STEAM-Grades 3-8

Cheryl Ross – approval as an independent contractor.

8. Approval to engage Cheryl Ross as an independent contractor to perform services and complete tasks requiring the expertise and/or certification of an ESL teacher, including, but not limited to, WIDA Screener administration, student record reviews, and ACCESS for ELLs testing. Services shall not exceed 50 hours during the 2026–2027 school year at a rate of $40.00 per hour, for a maximum compensation of $2,000.00.

Employ Aidan Dobleman

9. Employ the following substitute custodian for the 2026-2027 school year at a rate of $19.00 per hour:

Last Name	First Name
Dobleman	Aidan

Approval for Karen Macpherson to attend NJSBA workshop

10. Approval for Karen Macpherson, Superintendent, to attend the NJ School Board Association's Workshop 2026 on October 19-22, 2026. The general fund will fund admission, Hotel ($301.20), mileage, and miscellaneous expenses.

Motioned by Karen Sorbello, Seconded by Rebecca Ammen
Vote: To approve Personnel Items 1 through 10.
Roll Call Vote. All in Favor: Mrs. Ammen, Mr. Cruz, Mr. Godfrey, Mrs. Jackson, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Sorbello, and Mr. D'Amico. (7-0-0)

Motion Approved.

Students

B. Students
(No items at this time)

Programs

C. Programs

Sarah Tantillo – ELA coach

Motion to approve, on the Recommendation of the Superintendent, Programs Items 1 through 3.

Cheryl Fricchione – Coaching that Counts

1. Approval of Sarah Tantillo to provide 8 hours of ELA coaching at a rate of $250.00 an hour for an amount not to exceed $2,000.00, funded through Title II (200-300).

2. Approval of Coaching that Counts with Cheryl Fricchione to provide math coaching 1 day in

person and 10 virtual sessions at 45 minutes each, for an amount not to exceed $4,000.00, funded through Title II (200-300).

Motioned by Dale Martin, Seconded by Karen Sorbello
Vote: To approve Programs Items 1 through 10.
Roll Call Vote. All in Favor: Mrs. Ammen, Mr. Cruz, Mr. Godfrey, Mrs. Jackson, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Sorbello, and Mr. D'Amico. (7-0-0)

Motion Approved.

Trips

D. Trips
(No items at this time)

Plans

E. Plans
(No items at this time)

Job Descriptions

F. Job Descriptions
(No items at this time)

Facilities

G. Facilities
(No items at this time)

Policies

H. Policies
(No items at this time)

Board Secretary Report

Informational Items

BOARD SECRETARY/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

<u>Informational Items:</u>

-School Boards Convention – October 19 – 22, 2026

-October BOE Meeting Date has been rescheduled for October 27, 2026

Board Actions

<u>Board Actions</u>:

Motion to approve Board Action items A through D

Monthly Reports

A Monthly Reports
The Budget Summary and Revenue Summary for the month of July 2026. **(Attachment A1 through A2)**

Transfers

B Transfer of Funds
The attached transfer list, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, for the month of July 2026. **(Attachment B1)**

Financial Reports

C Financial Reports

1. Board Secretary's Report in accordance with 18A: 17-36 and 18A: 17-9 for the month of July 2026. The Board Secretary certifies that no line item account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A: 23A – 16.10 (c) 3 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. **(Attachment C1)**
2. Treasurer's Report in accordance with 18A:17-36 and 18A:17-9 for the month of July 2026. The Treasurer's Report and Board Secretary's report are in agreement for the month of July 2026. **(Attachment C2)**
3. Board Secretary in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A – 16.10 (c) 2 certifies that there are no changes in anticipated revenue amounts or revenue sources.
4. Board of Education Certification – pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A – 16.10 (c) 4 We certify that after review of the secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, that to the best of our knowledge no major accounts or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A – 16.10 (b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Bill List

D Warrants

The attached bill lists:

- Warrants **(Attachment D1)**
- Payroll **(Attachment D2)**

Motioned by Mark Godfrey, Seconded by Dale Martin
Vote: To approve Board Action Items A through D.
Roll Call Vote. All in Favor: Mrs. Ammen, Mr. Cruz, Mr. Godfrey, Mrs. Jackson, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Sorbello, and **Mr. D'Amico. (6-0-1) ** Nick D'Amico – Abstained from payments to ESS

Motion to approve Board Action items F through H

Tuition – Marie Katzenbach

F Tuition – Marie Katzenbach

To approve a tuition contract with Marie H. Katzenbach School for student #5749541181 in the amount of $4,410.00 for ESY tuition for the 2026-2027 school year.

SOP Manual

G SOP Manual

To acknowledge that the Standard Operating Procedures Manual approved on August 5, 2025 is still in effect for 2026-2027 with no changes.

Purchasing Manual

H Purchasing Manual

To acknowledge that the Purchasing Manual approved on August 5, 2025 is still in effect for 2026-2027 with no changes.

Motioned by Mark Godfrey, Seconded by Dale Martin
Vote: To approve Board Action Items F through H
Roll Call Vote. All in Favor: Mrs. Ammen, Mr. Cruz, Mr. Godfrey, Mrs. Jackson, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Sorbello, and Mr. D'Amico. (7-0-0)

Audience Participation II

X. Open Audience Participation II – <u>Public Comment</u>

Motioned by Mark Godfrey, Seconded by Karen Sorbello
Vote: To approve Opening Public Comment
Voice Vote. All in favor

No Comments

Close audience Participation II – Public Comment

Motioned by Rebecca Ammen, Seconded by Mark Godfrey
Vote: To approve Closing Public Comment.
Voice Vote. All in favor

Executive Session

XI. RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION

None

Resumption to Public Portion of the Meeting

XII. RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING

None

Adjournment

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:43 pm by Mark Godfrey Seconded by Dale Martin
Vote: To Adjourn meeting
Voice Vote. All in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Gontowski
Board Secretary