MENDHAM TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BROOKSIDE, NEW JERSEY
MIDDLE SCHOOL MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
REGULAR SESSION MEETING AGENDA
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2026, 7:30 PM

I. Call to Order

II. Flag Salute

III. Roll Call of the Board of Education

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

IV. Sunshine 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 meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act, 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. Student Representative to the Board of Education

- Student Representative - William Vaccaro

VI. Superintendent's Report

- District Updates, News, and Events
- MTES Student Group
- Special Education Presentation - Dr. Robert Koroski
- Thomas Keeling and Dr. Rekha Mandel Celebration

MENDHAM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROCLAMATION HONORING THOMAS KEELING

In Recognition of Six Years of Dedicated Service, 2021–2026

WHEREAS, Thomas Keeling has served with distinction as a member of the Mendham Township Board of Education from January 2021 through December 2026, generously dedicating his time, talents, knowledge, and energy to the students, families, staff, and community of Mendham Township; and

WHEREAS, throughout his six years of service, Mr. Keeling has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to educational excellence, responsible governance, and the belief that every student deserves access to an exceptional educational experience in a safe, supportive, and challenging learning environment; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Keeling has provided valuable leadership and thoughtful contributions through his service on numerous Board committees, particularly Curriculum and School Programs, Personnel and Human Resources, and Operations and Finance, helping to guide important decisions concerning educational programming, district operations, fiscal responsibility, and the effective stewardship of community resources; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Keeling has demonstrated a particular interest in and commitment to special education, dedicating considerable time and attention to understanding the needs of students with disabilities, supporting meaningful educational opportunities, and encouraging thoughtful dialogue regarding the district's special education programs, services, and long-term planning; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Keeling has consistently recognized the importance of open communication, transparency, and public engagement, contributing his knowledge and perspective to help community members better understand the challenges, opportunities, and responsibilities associated with providing an outstanding public education; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Keeling has approached his responsibilities with diligence, integrity, careful consideration, and a genuine desire to do what is right for students, while working collaboratively with fellow Board members, district administrators, and staff to advance the mission and long-term success of the Mendham Township School District; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education recognizes that public service requires significant personal sacrifice, countless hours of preparation, and a willingness to make difficult decisions, and expresses its sincere appreciation to Mr. Keeling and his family for the time, understanding, and support that have made his service possible; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Keeling's contributions have helped strengthen the foundation of the Mendham Township School District, and his dedication to its students and community will be remembered with gratitude and respect;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mendham Township Board of Education, at its meeting on November 17, 2026, hereby formally recognizes, commends, and extends its deepest appreciation to Thomas Keeling for six years of outstanding service, thoughtful leadership, and steadfast dedication to the students, staff, families, and residents of Mendham Township; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education extends its warmest wishes to Mr. Keeling and his family, with sincere thanks for his many contributions to the Mendham Township School District and for the lasting example of community service he has provided.

Adopted this 17th day of November, 2026.

MENDHAM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROCLAMATION HONORING DR. REKHA MANDEL

In Recognition of Six Years of Dedicated Service, 2021–2026

WHEREAS, Dr. Rekha Mandel has served with distinction as a member of the Mendham Township Board of Education from January 2021 through December 2026, generously sharing her time, knowledge, experience, and thoughtful leadership in service to the students, families, staff, and community of Mendham Township; and

WHEREAS, throughout her six years of dedicated service, Dr. Mandel has demonstrated a deep and enduring commitment to educational excellence, the well-being of every child, and the belief that outstanding public schools must provide not only rigorous academic opportunities but also welcoming, supportive, and inclusive environments in which all students can thrive; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mandel earned the trust and confidence of her fellow Board members through her selection as Vice President of the Mendham Township Board of Education, a leadership position in which she demonstrated sound judgment, professionalism, integrity, and a commitment to collaborative governance, supporting the Board President, encouraging thoughtful and respectful deliberation, and helping to ensure that the Board remained focused on its shared responsibility to the students and community it serves; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mandel provided important leadership as Chairperson of the Operations and Finance Committee, helping to guide the Board's oversight of district finances, annual budgets, facilities, capital improvements, and long-term operational planning, while consistently recognizing the importance of balancing

fiscal responsibility and accountability to taxpayers with the educational needs of students and the resources necessary to support an exceptional school district; and

WHEREAS, in her leadership of the Operations and Finance Committee, Dr. Mandel demonstrated an appreciation for the complexity of school district operations, the importance of careful financial planning, and the need for responsible stewardship of public resources, contributing to thoughtful discussions and informed decisions intended to strengthen the district's financial stability, maintain its facilities, and support its continued growth and improvement; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mandel has made meaningful contributions through her service on numerous Board committees, including Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, Curriculum and School Programs, and Policy and Planning, bringing thoughtful consideration, informed perspectives, and a student-centered approach to the important work of district governance; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mandel has been a dedicated advocate for fostering a school culture rooted in kindness, dignity, mutual respect, inclusion, and belonging, helping to advance important conversations and initiatives designed to ensure that every student and family feels valued, respected, supported, and connected to the Mendham Township school community; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mandel has consistently recognized the essential relationship between academic achievement, student well-being, and a positive school climate, supporting educational programs, policies, and practices that honor the individual strengths, experiences, and needs of the children entrusted to the district's care; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mandel has demonstrated a strong commitment to thoughtful policymaking, continuous improvement, and meaningful community engagement, contributing her time and expertise to communicating the district's goals, strengthening public understanding, and encouraging constructive dialogue among Board members, administrators, educators, families, and community stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mandel has approached her responsibilities with professionalism, compassion, integrity, and a collaborative spirit, consistently placing the interests of students at the center of her work and demonstrating a sincere commitment to the long-term success of the Mendham Township School District; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education recognizes that meaningful public service, particularly in positions of leadership, requires extraordinary dedication,

personal sacrifice, and countless hours devoted to the needs of others, and expresses its heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Mandel and her family for the time, encouragement, and support that have made her contributions possible;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mendham Township Board of Education, at its meeting on November 17, 2026, hereby formally recognizes, commends, and extends its deepest appreciation to **Dr. Rekha Mandel** for six years of outstanding service, distinguished leadership, thoughtful fiscal stewardship, and unwavering dedication to the educational success, well-being, and sense of belonging of every student in the Mendham Township School District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education extends its warmest wishes to Dr. Mandel and her family, with heartfelt thanks for her exceptional contributions, her willingness to accept the responsibilities of Board leadership, and the lasting example of thoughtful, caring, and dedicated public service she has provided to the Mendham Township community.

Adopted this 17th day of November, 2026.

VII. Board Secretary's Report

VIII. Board President's Report

IX. Correspondence - None

X. Committee Reports

- **Curriculum and School Programs**
- **DEIB**
- **Operations and Finance**
- **Personnel and Human Resources**
- **Policy**
- **Ad Hoc - Referendum/ROD Grant**

XI. Consent Items

Approval of Minutes

Regular Session Minutes:	October 13, 2026
Executive Session Minutes:	October 13, 2026
Work Session Minutes:	October 27, 2026
Executive Session Minutes:	October 27, 2026

XII. Official Results of Election - November 7, 2026

Official results of the November 7, 2026, School Board Elections for three, three-year terms on the Mendham Township Board of Elections were as follows:

Candidates (2 Candidates - 2 Seats - 3-Year Terms)	Total Votes
Richard Gondek	1,991
Namita Kallianpurkar	1,842

Curriculum and School Programs

1. **Middle School Holiday Concert Selections** *(Attachment)*
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the Middle School's Holiday Concert Programs for the December 2026 performances.

2. **Field Trips & School Activities** *(Attachments)*
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the attached field trips and school activities for the 2026-2027 school year.

3. **Contract with Center for Evaluation and Counseling Inc.** *(Attachment)*
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the contract with Center for Evaluation and Counseling Inc. for the 2026-2027 school year for referring and providing School Clearance and Risk Assessment services for $300.00 per assessment at tier one, and as necessary for tier 2 $600.00 and tier 3 $900.00.

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 October 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 October 2026 Board Secretary's Reports.

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

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

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

Fund 10 - Treasurer Account		$ 32,764.49
Fund 11 - Treasurer Account		$ 1,182,255.12
Fund 20 - Special Revenue/Grants		$ 9,056.07
Fund 30 - Referendum Account		$ 349,365.10
Fund 60 - Cafeteria Account		$ 105,237.05
Fund 95 - Athletic Account		$ 1,215.00
	Total:	$1,679,892.83

6. **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).

7. **School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Reports** *(Attachments)*
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education accepts the School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Reports from Mendham Township Elementary and Middle Schools, West Morris Mendham High School, Bragg School, Dickerson School, and Black River Middle School.

8. **Contract with Matthew J. Giacobbe, Esq., of Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, Jacobs, Lagana, LLC** *(Attachment)*
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the contract with Matthew Giacobbe, Esq. of the firm of Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, and Jacobs, LLC as the attorney for the Mendham Township Board of Education, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Personnel and Human Resources

1. **Staff Resignation - Megan Hongsukpant, Middle School Spanish Teacher** *(Attachment)*

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education accepts the letter of resignation from Megan Hongsukpant, Middle School Spanish Teacher, dated October 14, 2026, effective December 11, 2026.

2. **Leave of Absence – Diane Erlemann**

   BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves Diane Erlemann, Bus Aide, for a leave of absence commencing on October 19, 2026, utilizing 6 Sick days under the Federal Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves Diane Erlemann with a return to work date of January 4, 2027.

3. **Leave of Absence - Brianna Boland**

   BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves Brianna Boland, Elementary School Teacher, for a leave of absence, having received doctor's certification, commencing March 8, 2027, while utilizing Thirty-eight (29) sick days, under the Federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), ending after Twelve (12) weeks on June 4, 2027.

   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves Seven (7) weeks under the NJ Family Leave Act (FLA) for Brianna Boland, commencing on April 26, 2027, through June 15, 2027, as requested in writing;

   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves Brianna Boland with an anticipated return to work date of August 23, 2027, for the 2027-2028 school year.

4. **Leave of Absence – Dori Smyth**

   BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves Dori Smyth, STEM Teacher, for a leave of absence commencing on November 9, 2026, utilizing accumulated sick days under the Federal Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves Dori Smyth to return to work at a later date, pending re-evaluation and certification from physician.

5. **Leave of Absence-Briana Ocampo - Revised**

   BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves Briana Ocampo, Elementary School Teacher, for a leave of absence, having received doctor's certification, commencing November 9, 2026, while utilizing Twenty-Nine (29) sick days, under the Federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), ending after Twelve (12) weeks on January 29, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves Briana Ocampo for an extended unpaid leave of absence (Not covered under FMLA or NJFLA) beginning February 1, 2027, through June 15, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves Briana Ocampo with an anticipated return to work for the 2027-2028 school year.

6. **New Hire - Heather Gorman, Bus Aide**
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the appointment of Heather Gorman, pending completion of paperwork, as a Bus Aide, at an hourly rate of $23.00, effective November 18, 2026, for the 2026-2027 school year.

7. **Leave Replacement - Daniel Treier, Middle School Physical Education Teacher** *(Attachment)*
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Middle School approves the appointment of Daniel Treier as a full-time Leave Replacement Middle School Physical Education Teacher, effective November 23, 2026, through June 15, 2027, at a prorated salary of $60,895.00, BA, Step 1.

8. **Mentor for Provisional Teacher**
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves payment to the following to serve as a mentor during the Provisional Teacher Certification process:

Mentor	Provisional Teacher	Certification	Compensation
Daniel DePugh	Daniel Treier	CE	$550.00

9. **Western Governors University Student Abigail Cogott**
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Cara Dawes, Elementary School Teacher, to act as the Cooperating Teacher for Abigail Cogott of Western Governors University Master's Program in Elementary Education, starting November 30, 2026, and continuing through the Winter 2027 semester.

10. **Chaperones** *(Attachment)*
    BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves payment at the contractual rate for chaperones following the end of the contractual day.

11. **New - Substitute Teacher**
BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Giorgio LaMarca, 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.

12. **New - Substitute Transportation Driver**
BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Bryan Jones, pending completion of paperwork, as a substitute transportation driver for the 2026-2027 school year at the current rate of $31.50 per hour.

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 0143	Board Member Election and Appointment
P 2361.6	Unauthorized Audio and/or Video Recording
P 2363	Student Use of Privately-Owned Technology (Abolished)
P 2412	Home Instruction Due to Health Condition (M)
R 2412	Home Instruction Due to Health Condition (M)
P 2422	Statutory Curricular Requirements (M)
P 2422.02	Parental Opt-Out From Certain Instruction (M)
R 2422.02	Parental Opt-Out From Certain Instruction (M)
P 5320	Immunization
R 5320	Immunization
P 5514	Student Use of Vehicles on School Grounds
P 5516	Student Use of Internet-Enabled Devices (M)
R 5516	Student Use of Internet-Enabled Devices (M)
P 5517	School District Issued Student Identification Cards (M)
R 6471	School District Travel (M)
R 6471	School District Travel (M)
P 7523	School District Provided Technology Devices to Students
P 8660	Transportation by Private Vehicles - To and From School-Related Activities (M)
P 8662	Transportation by Private or District-Owned Vehicles - To and From School (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 2460	Special Education (M)

R 2460.15 Special Education - In-Service Training Needs for Professional and Paraprofessional Staff (M)
R 2460.16 Special Education - Instructional Material to Blind or Print-Disabled Students (M)
P 2700 Services to Nonpublic School Students (M)

XIII. ACTION ITEM

Personnel and Human Resources

1. **Suspension With Pay**
   BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education hereby approves the suspension, with pay, of employee #88255625, effective November 17, 2026, pending further review.

XIV. 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 the 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/negotiation 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.

XV. Reconvene Open Regular Session Meeting

XVI. Discussion

XVII. Verbal Communications from the Public

The Board President, or Presiding Officer, will direct members of the public to speak in turn and shall have the right to limit the speaking time of individuals wishing to provide comment to the board as necessary. Board of Education members provide public comment as a time to listen to the comments from attendees of the Board of Education meeting. Public comment shall not be a time for open dialogue with the speaker. Public comment shall not be a time for board members to answer questions posed to them by a speaker or comment on a speaker's concerns. Speakers shall provide their name, address, and direct their comments to the board and not to district staff or other audience members. Speakers shall not expect board members to answer questions during public comment. Questions shall

be referred to the Superintendent, or his/her designee, for review, study, and response. If appropriate, the board may request that the issue be a discussion item at a future Board of Education meeting.

XVIII. Adjournment