MINUTES
MOUNT ARLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 29, 2026

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

PRESENT: Rachel Byrne, President
Edwin Botero
Chris D'Amico
Melissa Eckert
Erika Puskas
Sheila Studint, Vice-President

ABSENT: Karl Svenningsen

ALSO PRESENT: Scott Pepper, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Robin C. Tedesco, Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Jennifer Ochoa, Supervisor of Special Services
Joseph Coladarci, Principal

Board of Education President, Rachel Byrne, called the in-person meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., declared a quorum present, and read the following notices:

The Mount Arlington Board of Education is meeting for action and discussion about business before the Board of Education today.

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the public's right to have advance notice of and to attend meetings of public bodies at which business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with this Act, the Board of Education has sent notice of today's meetings and copies of the agenda to the:

Roxbury Register
Daily Record
Star Ledger
Municipal Clerk
Board of Education Members

Notice of today's meeting and copies of the agenda have been posted on the Mount Arlington Public Schools Website: www.mtarlingtonk8.org

All Board of Education members present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT 2026-2027 SCHOOL BUDGET

1. Presentation of the 2026-2027 Budget - Mrs. Tedesco presented the 2026-2027 Budget to the Board Members and Public.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE BUDGET

1. None.

PRESENTATIONS

1. 2024-2025 HIB Self-Assessment Report – Mr. Coladarci presented the HIB Report to the Board Members and the Public.

CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was presented by Mrs. Studint, and seconded by Mr. D'Amico, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education move to Closed Session at 7:08 P.M., to address Legal and Personnel issues. Action will follow.

Voice Vote:
Yes: 6
No: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 1
Motion Passes

WHEREAS the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act (N.J.S.A.10:4-1 et seq.) expressly provide that a public body may move into Closed Session and exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which the public body discusses any of the nine areas set forth in N.J.S.A.10:4-12b; and

WHEREAS, the Mount Arlington Board of Education has determined it necessary to move to Closed Session to discuss personnel and legal matters, which are included in the aforesaid exceptions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mount Arlington Board of Education that it does hereby move into Closed Session pursuant to N.J.S.A.10:4-12b to discuss the aforesaid matters with a related action to follow, and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the aforesaid discussions shall be made public either at the Public Meeting following said Closed Session or at such time as any litigated personnel matters are concluded, or upon conclusion of any negotiations or discussions; or as otherwise specified; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect pursuant to law.

A motion was presented by Mrs. Eckert, and seconded by Ms. Puskas that the meeting return to Open Session at 8:09 P.M.

Voice Vote:
Yes: 6
No: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 1
Motion Passes

MINUTES:

A motion was presented by Mr. Botero and seconded by Mrs. Studint, to approve:

1. Regular Meeting & Executive – March 19, 2026
   Regular Meeting & Executive – April 14, 2026
   Regular Meeting & Executive – April 16, 2026
   Regular Meeting & Executive – April 21, 2026

Voice Vote:
Yes: 6
No: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 1
Motion Passed

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

1. None

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. None

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Tedesco reviewed the motions before the Board of Education as shown on the agenda.

BUSINESS - ACTION ITEMS BY COMMITTEE - FINANCE:

A motion was presented by Mrs. Studint, and seconded by Mr. Botero, to approve Finance Agenda Items 042926-B-1 through 042926-B-17.

042926-B-1 RESOLVED that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approves the Cafeteria Account check register of payments dated March 20, 2026 through April 29, 2026 in the amount of $35,201.20.

042926-B-2 RESOLVED that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approves the General Account check register of payments dated March 20, 2026 through April 29, 2026 in the amount of $1,395,364.62

042926-B-3 RESOLVED that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approves the list of line-item transfers for March 2026.

042926-B-4 RESOLVED, that the report of the Secretary and the related statement of cash balances for the month of March 2026 be approved by the Mount Arlington Board of Education and ordered filed, and further that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approves the certification of the Board Secretary for the month of March 2026 that no line-item account has encumbrances and expenditures which, in total, exceed the line appropriation of the adopted 2025-2026 budget, as revised, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:17-9 and further certifies that no major account or fund has been expended in violation of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-8 or N.J.S.A. 18A:19.

042926-B-5 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the following field trips/fundraisers for the 2025-2026 school year.

Grade	Date	Location
2nd Grade	5/27/26	Mount Arlington School

042926-B-6 RESOLVED that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the following Community Based Instruction and Work Based Learning Site for the 2025-2026 school year:

Grade	Date	Location
MAPS & Decker STEPS	5/26/26	Roxbury Garden Center, 5 Howard Blvd, Ledgewood, NJ

042926-B-7 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approves travel and costs as related in this resolution which are educationally necessary and fiscally prudent and are related to and within the scope of the employee's current responsibilities and promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district. The reimbursements listed in this resolution are in

compliance with State travel reimbursement guidelines as established by the Department of the Treasury and Board of Education policy in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et. seq.

Name	Seminar/Conference	Date	Est. Expense	Mileage Expense
R. Tedesco	End of Year Accounting & Personnel Meetings	5/14/26 & 5/15/26	$0	Zoom
B. Caggiano	End of Year Accounting & Personnel Meetings	5/14/26 & 5/15/26	$0	Zoom
D. VanDongen	North Jersey School Music Association - NJSMA	6/2/26	$25	$11.28

042926-B-8 RESOLVED that the Mount Arlington Board of Education revise motion #071622-B-31 to reflect an increase in related services for the remaining 15 weeks of school for student ID #11321, with a total cost increase of $385.00.

:

042926-B-9 RESOLVED that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve a Settlement in the matter of OAL Dkt. No. EDS 18941-25, pursuant to terms of a written agreement between the parties.

042926-B-10

Mount Arlington Public School District
Adoption of the Final Budget for School Year 2026-2027

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education to approve the 2026-2027 school district budget as follows:

	General Fund	Special Revenues	Debt Service	Total
2026-2027 Total Expenditures	$16,077,621	$182,339	$232,400	**$16,492,360**
Less: Anticipated Revenues	$1,785,973	$182,339	$ 0	**$1,968,312**

	General Fund	Special Revenues	Debt Service	Total
Less: January 27, 2026 Approved Tax Levy Referendum	$975,000	$ 0	$ 0	**$975,000**
Taxes to be Raised	**$13,316,648**	**$ 0**	**$232,400**	**$13,549,048**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Business Administrator shall track and record professional service costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded; and

WHEREAS N.J.A.C.6A:23A:5.2(a) mandates Boards of Education to establish annually prior to budget preparation, for public relations and each type of professional service a maximum level of spending for the ensuing school year; and

WHEREAS the final budget includes the following appropriations:

Service	Cost
Legal	$25,000
Architectural Services	$0
Auditing	$36,500
Related Services	$265,275
Other Professional Services	$9,000
Total	$335,775

WHEREAS the Administration needs to notify the Board if there arises a need to exceed said maximums. Upon which the Board may adopt a dollar increase in the maximum amount through formal Board action; and

WHEREAS the Board and Administration wishes to minimize the amount of paperwork involved in this area;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mount Arlington Board of Education, in the County of Morris,
New Jersey establishes maximum for professional services in the areas listed above at a level of 120% of the amounts listed for the 2026-2027 school year.

042926-B-11 MAXIMUM TRAVEL

RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, a board of education must establish a maximum dollar limit for travel expenditure, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq.,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget a maximum travel expenditure in the amount of $15,410.00 for the 2026-2027 school year.

The maximum travel expenditure amount for the 2025-2026 school year is $13,410.00, of which, $604.34 has been spent and $.00 is encumbered to date.

042926-B-12 TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approves and recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or further the efficient operation of the school district;

AND N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board;

AND, a board of education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of $150 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30);

AND travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 but deemed by the board of education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms;

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7, to a maximum expenditure of $15,410 for all staff and board members for the 2026-2027 school year.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

ADDENDUM

042926-B-13 RESOLVED that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approves the revised submission and approval of the 2025-26 ESEA Consolidated Grant Amendment 1 application to the NJ Department of Education. The amounts for each grant are as follows:

Title I-A	$65,202
Carryover	$27,448
Title II-A	$11,936
Carryover	$ 1,185
Title III	$ 4,784
Title III Immigrant	$ 1,421
Title IV	$10,000
Carryover	$10,000

042926-B-14 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education, upon recommendation from the School Business Administrator, approves and awards the renewal of the Food Service Management Company (FSMC) base year contract with Maschio's Food Services, Inc. for the 2026-2027 school year in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A: 18A-42. The Mount Arlington Board of Education shall pay Maschio's Food Services, Inc. an annual management fee in the amount of $12,660. The management fee shall be payable in ten monthly installments of $1,266.00 commencing on September 1, 2026, and ending on June 30, 2027. The Total Cost of the Contract is $177,404.63.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Maschio's Food Services, Inc. guarantees a no cost or breakeven food service operation, including the management fee. In the event that program costs exceed total revenue (from all sources), Maschio's Food Services, Inc. shall be responsible for any losses (shortfalls) incurred.

042926-B-15 RESOLVED that the Mount Arlington Board of Education, upon recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approves the following prices for student lunches for the 2026-2027 school year as allowed by the National School Lunch Program.

Edith M. Decker School:	$4.00
Mount Arlington Public School:	$4.00

042926-B-16 RESOLVED that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approves the

2025-2026 McKinney Vento regular education contract for student ID#11494 with Parsippany-Troy Hills Board of Education.

042626-B-17 RESOLVED that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approves the purchase of Amplify CKLA for grades K-2 funded by the Title IV grant for the 2025-26 school year.

Roll Call:

Mr. Botero	*Yes*
Mrs. Byrne	*Yes*
Mr. D'Amico	*Yes*
Mrs. Eckert	*Yes*
Mrs. Puskas	*Yes*
Mrs. Studint	*Yes*
Mr. Svenningsen	*Absent*

Motion Passes

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Pepper reviewed the motions before the Board of Education as shown on the agenda.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - ACTION ITEMS BY COMMITTEE

PERSONNEL:

A motion was presented by Mrs. Studint, and seconded by Mr. Botero, to approve Personnel Agenda Items 042926-S-1 through 042926-S-11.

042926-S-1 Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent resolved to accept the resignation of Brianna Hutkowski, Teacher effective June 30, 2026.

042926-S-2 Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent resolved to accept the resignation of Tom Cryan, Facilities Manager, effective April 24, 2026.

042926-S-3 Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent resolved to extend the employment of Carly Corrente (061125-S-6) through June 30, 2026.

042926-S-4 Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent resolved to approve maternity leave for employee#10254 to begin September 1, 2026-March 25, 2027.

042926-S-5 Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent resolved to approve maternity leave for employee#10352 to begin September 1, 2026-January 13, 2027.

042926-S-6 Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent resolved to approve maternity

leave for employee#10337 to begin September 9, 2026-June 30, 2027.

042926-S-7 Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent resolved to approve the following teachers to chaperone the Dorney Park trip on Friday, May 8, 2026, at a rate of $15.92 per hour for hours before/after the normal work day:

Mike Aberback	Karenine Joubert	Marlen Tomosieski
Diane Van Dongen	Elizabeth Wassel	Laura Westervelt

042926-S-8 Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent resolved to approve the following teachers as chaperones for the Spring Concerts and Art Show on Tuesday May 19, 2026 and Thursday May 21, 2026 at a rate of $100.00 per event:

Michael Aberback (Tue/Thu)	Diane VanDongen (Tue/Thu)
Megan Hahn (Thu)	Marlen Tomosieski (Tue)
Tanya Occhiuzzo(Thu)	Kristina Farley (Tue)
Elizabeth Wassel (Art Tue/Thu)	

042926-S-9 Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent resolved to rescind the appointment of Stephanie Guida (022426-S-4) to provide home instruction for a special education student effective 3/23/26.

042926-S-10 Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools resolved to approve Jennifer Fitzgibbons to provide home instruction for a special education student from March 23, 2026 through May 18, 2026 for up to 2 hours per day at a rate of $44.04 per hour.

042926-S-11 Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent resolved to add Monica J. Dattoli to our list of substitute teachers for the 2025-2026 school year. (Note: Approval is based upon receipt of State approved background check and certification as required by law)

Roll Call:

Mr. Botero	*Yes*
Mrs. Byrne	*Yes*
Mr. D'Amico	*Yes*
Mrs. Eckert	*Yes*
Mrs. Puskas	*Yes*
Mrs. Studint	*Yes*
Mr. Svenningsen	*Absent*

Motion Passes

CURRICULUM/POLICY:

A motion was presented by Mrs. Eckert, and seconded by Mrs. Studint, to approve Curriculum/Policy Agenda Item 042926-S-12 through 042926-S-15.

042926-S-12 RESOLVED, relative to Disciplinary Matter 2025-26-M-3, the Mount Arlington Board of Education accepts the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools to be a confirmed case of HIB.

042926-S-13 Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent resolved to revise motion 031925-S-10 updating the 25-26 district calendar as follows:

- June 24, 2026, will be an early dismissal day (1:00 dismissal) for students and staff and the 8th grade graduation (to begin at 6:30pm).
- June 25, 2026, will be the last day of school (1:00 dismissal) for students and staff (rain date for 8th grade graduation)

042926-S-14 Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent resolved to approve the 2026-2027 Emergency Evacuation Agreement between the Mount Arlington Public Schools Board of Education and County College of Morris through June 30, 2027.

042926-S-15 Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent resolved to approve the following events/fund raisers:

- MAEA/PTO Sponsored Community Softball Game on May 12, 2026 at MAPS front field.

➢ Fire/Emergency Drills were conducted with the Mount Arlington Police Department for the Month of March and April 2026

➢ Bus Evacuation Drills were conducted with Roxbury Transportation on April 14, 2026 and April 16, 2026

- Staff attendance for March 2026 was 93.8%
  Student attendance for March 2026:
  MAPS-93.7% Decker-91.5%

Roll Call:

Mr. Botero	*Yes*
Mrs. Byrne	*Yes*
Mr. D'Amico	*Yes*
Mrs. Eckert	*Yes*
Mrs. Puskas	*Yes*
Mrs. Studint	*Yes*
Mr. Svenningsen	*Absent*

Motion Passes

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Finance:
   - No Report

B. Personnel:
   - No Report

C. Building and Grounds:
   - No Report

D. Curriculum and Policy:
   - No Report

E. Negotiations:
   - No Report

F. Town Council:
   - No Report

G. Parent Teachers Organization:

Ms. Puskas gave the following report:

- Teacher appreciation May 4th- Red, White and Blue, we appreciate you! Recognizing all staff.
- All are invited to march in the Memorial Day parade May 23 with the PTO
- Field Day at Decker is May 29th
- Field Day at MAPS is June 12th
- Mother's Day baskets will be on sale at the Roxbury Garden Denter for a PTO fundraiser. Fundraiser starts May 4th and pick up by May 12th
- May 12, 2026, is the community softball game.

OTHER REPORTS:

Roxbury BOE

- Mr. Botero reported that Roxbury conducted their Public Hearing on the budget on April 27, 2026, and the next meeting is on May 11, 2026.

Delegate to NJ School Board Association:

- No Report

Delegate to Morris County School Board Association:

- No Report

Delegate to Educational Service Commission of Morris County:

- No Report

OLD BUSINESS:

- None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Mrs. Byrne told the Board that since the district was led by an Interim Superintendent during the 2025-2026 school year no annual Superintendent's Evaluation is required.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. None

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was presented by Mrs. Studint, and seconded by Mr. Botero, that the Regular meeting be adjourned. The motion was unanimously carried at 8:27 P.M.

Voice Vote:
Yes: 6
No: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 1
Motion Passed

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin C Tedesco

Mrs. Robin C. Tedesco
Interim School Business Administrator/Board of Education Secretary
Approved: