

**MENDHAM TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BROOKSIDE, NEW JERSEY  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYMNASIUM  
(MEETING IS BEING HELD VIRTUALLY,  
NO IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE WILL BE ALLOWED)  
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021, 7:30 PM**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

**II. Flag Salute** - Mrs. Holquist led the flag salute.

**III. Roll Call of the Board of Education**

Mrs. Gretchen Holquist	President	Present
Mr. Andrew Christmann	Vice President	Present
Mr. Peter Dumovic		Absent
Dr. Rekha Mandel		Present
Mrs. Joan Mody		Present
Mr. Aadithya Thayyar		Present
Mr. Robert Wowk		Present

Also present: Dr. Salvatore Constantino, Superintendent  
Mrs. Donna Mosner, School Business Administrator  
General Public – 27 approximately

**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. Superintendent's Report**

➤ District Updates, News, and Events

**CORONAVIRUS RELATED UPDATES**

➤ New guidelines regarding spectators at athletic events.

<https://www.nj.gov/infobank/circular/eocc220.pdf>

<https://www.nj.com/coronavirus/2021/02/nj-indoor-high-school-youth-sports-reopened-for-parents-to-attend-games-here-are-the-details.html>

➤ I will ask the Board to consider and give guidance on the issue of parents at practices and/or games in our gyms. As we have stated previously, following the state guidelines in this area will allow for us to do this safely. That is my recommendation at this time.

## CORONAVIRUS QUARANTINE PERIODS FOR TRAVEL

- The NJDOH has updated the travel guidelines to fall in line with a recent CDC publication. I will be asking the Board to consult on implementing the new program of a 10-day quarantine without a test or a 7-day quarantine with a test for people with no symptoms that have traveled out of the “immediate region”. Please see the screenshot from the NJDOH below.

### VI. Board Secretary’s Report

- **Operations & Finance:**

February 23, 2021 – Governor’s address

February 25, 2021 – State aid figures to be released

February 26, 2021 – Budget software update will be released to include state aid and edits

March 16, 2021 – Adoption of tentative budget to Executive County Superintendent

April 22, 2021 – Advertise for Public Hearing for 2021-2022 Budget

May 4, 2021 – Public Hearing on 2021-2022 Budget – Final Adoption of Budget

May 5, 2021 – Post-User-Friendly Budget on website

May 18, 2021 – Certification of 2021-2022 Budget and A4F taxes to municipalities, county, and state of the report

### VII. Board President’s Report – None.

### VIII. Correspondence – Mrs. Keeling – MTMS Curriculum

### IX. Committee Reports – a brief summary was shared by the chair of each committee about the agenda items

- **Curriculum and Instruction** – Mr. Thayyar delivered the report
- **Operations and Finance** – Mr. Christmann delivered the report
- **Personnel and Human Resources** – Mrs. Mody delivered the report
- **Policy** – Dr. Constantino delivered the report
- **Ad Hoc Referendum** – Mrs. Holquist delivered the report
- **Ad Hoc Negotiations** – Mrs. Mody delivered the report

### X. Consent Items

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Regular Session Minutes: January 26, 2021

**Approval of Executive Minutes:** January 26, 2021

**Curriculum and Instruction**

1. **Revised Curriculum** (*Attachment*)

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the adoption of the 2020 - 2021 school year of the revised/renewed curriculum listed below:

Middle School Social Studies Curriculum

2. **Elementary School Fundraiser for the 2020 - 2021 School Year**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the following Elementary School activity for the 2020 - 2021 school year:

Date	Activity/Description	Staff
04/01/21 - 04/30/21	St. Jude’s Math-A-Thon - Improve math and comprehensive skills - Solve age-appropriate math problems - Understand the importance of helping others	K. O’Keefe

**Operations and Finance**

1. **Certification Reports**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education certify pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:19-4, does certify 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 and N.J.S.A. 18A:17-36, after review of the Board Secretary’s and Treasurer’s monthly financial reports for the month of January 2021 that no major accounts and fund balances in the 2020/2021 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 January 2021 Board Secretary’s Reports.

3. **Treasurer’s Report**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the January 2021 Treasurer’s Reports.

4. **January 2021 Transfer Reports**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the January 2021 transfer report.

5. **February 2021 Bills List**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the final January 2021 Bills List. This includes payroll checks N0136 through N0004, N0149 through N0156.

Fund 10 \$

Fund 11	\$
Fund 20	\$
Fund 60	\$
Fund 80	\$
Fund 95	\$
Total:	\$

6. **Use of District Facilities**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the following use of facility applications for the 2020 - 2021 school year with the right to cancel based on school events and needs:

Organization	Location	Dates	Times	Responsible Party
Girls Volleyball Clinic & High School Tryouts	<u>MS</u> Gym	03/01/21 - 03/05/21 Monday - Friday	3:30pm - 5:30pm	Greg Racz
		03/06/21 Saturday	9:00am - 12:00pm	
Panetta's High-Intensity Training	<u>ES</u> Gym	02/25/21 - 06/03/21 Thursdays	4:00pm - 5:00pm	Briana Panetta
The Mendham Kids Club LLC	<u>ES</u> Gym Classroom Grounds	<i>Previously approved:</i> 06/14/21 - 07/30/21	9:00am - 3:00pm	Charles Gallo
		New Dates 06/14/21 - 08/06/21		

\* Subject to change due to conflicts with Mendham Township School events.

7. **ESS Northeast, LLC Addendum** (*Attachment*)

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the Addendum to the Agreement between the Mendham Township School District and ESS Northeast, LLC for the Substitute Teachers and Staff, effective January 1, 2021.

**Policy & Planning**

**First Reading** (*Attachments*)

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves for first reading the following policies and regulations:

- P 0145 Board Member Resignation and Removal (M) (Revised)
- P 0164.6 Remote Public Board Meetings During A Declared Emergency (M) (New)
- R 1642 Earned Sick Leave Law (M) (Revised)
- P 1643 Family Leave (M) (New)
- P 3431.1 Family Leave (M) (Abolished)
- P 4431.1 Family Leave (M) (Abolished)
- P 3431.3 New Jersey Family Leave Insurance Program (Abolished)
- P 4431.3 New Jersey Family Leave Insurance Program (Abolished)
- P & R 5330.01 Administration of Medical Cannabis (M) (Revised)

P 7425	Lead Testing of Water in Schools (M) (Revised)
R 7425	Lead Testing of Water in Schools (M) (New)
P & R 7430	School Safety (M) (Abolished)
P 2415	Every Student Succeeds Act (M) (Revised)
P 2415.01	Academic Standards, Academic Assessments, and Accountability (M) (Abolished)
P 2415.02	Title I - Fiscal Responsibilities (M) (Revised)
P 2415.03	Highly Qualified Teachers (M) (Abolished)
P 2415.05	Student Surveys, Analysis, and/or Evaluations (M) (Revised)
P & R 2415.20	Every Student Succeeds Act Complaints (M) (Revised)
P 4125	Employment of Support Staff Members (M) (Revised)
P 6360	Political Contributions (M) (Revised)
P 8330	Student Records (M) (Revised)
P 9713	Recruitment by Special Interest Groups (M) (Revised)

## X. ACTION ITEMS

### Operations and Finance

#### 1. Waiver of Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program 2021-2022

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2021-2022 budget year, and

**WHEREAS**, the Mendham Township Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having fewer than 40 Medicaid eligible classified students OR participation in SEMI would not provide a cost-benefit to the district based on the projection of the district's available SEMI reimbursement for the 2021-2022 budget year, and

**WHEREAS**, the waiver request is based on the 2020-2021 Revenue report received from the NJ DOE, the free and reduced lunch count for special education students, and the 2020-2021 Revenue Projection report from the NJDOE and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education hereby authorizes the Chief School Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Morris an appropriate waiver of the requirements of NJAC 6A23A-5.3 for the 2021-2022 school year.

### Personnel and Human Resources

#### 1. Revised - Leave of Absence - Noel Lazoricsek

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board hereby approves Noel Lazoricsek, Middle School Teacher, for an unpaid leave of absence, having received doctor's certification, commencing January 22, 2021, under the Federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), ending after Four (5) weeks on February 24, 2021.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board hereby approves Noel Lazoricsek with an anticipated return to work date of February 25, 2021.

#### 2. Revised - Leave Replacement: Charlyn Lynch, Special Education Teacher

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the appointment of Charlyn Lynch as a Full-Time Leave Replacement Special Education Teacher, effective January 21, 2021, through February 24, 2021, at an annual salary of \$59,045, MA, Step 5, prorated.

3. **Extra Instructional Periods**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the following staff member to teach extra periods of instruction during the 2020-2021 school year at a prorated stipend based on \$8,500/year for an additional period four (4) times a week from February 22, 2021, through May 28, 2021, as an independent placement on the salary guide.

Zero Period: Instructional support of reading, writing, and math	4 period/Wk	Laura Porrovecchio	\$2,210.00
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4. **Unpaid Days: Steven Molnar, Transportation Driver**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Steven Molnar, Transportation Driver to use six (6) half days without pay starting February 12, 2021.

**Mr. Christmann moved to approve the Action Items for February 16, 2021; Operations & Finance item 1, Personnel & Human Resources items 1 – 4, seconded by Mr. Thayyar, and the motion was CARRIED in a roll call vote: Mr. Christmann; yes, Dr. Mandel; yes, Mrs. Mody; yes, Mr. Thayyar; yes, Mr. Wowk; yes, and Mrs. Holquist, yes – motions carry.**

**XI. Discussion**

Dr. Constantino - Quarantine following travel – DOE publication to follow CDC to adjust to a 10 without a test and a 7 day with a test that has traveled outside the immediate region. Thoughts are that we have been consistent with adjustments that have been issued, continuing with our practice

A. Thayyar – ok with this

Dr. Constantino – the level of concern about several families that have put the district in detective mode has created a level of concern. All along we have asked for people to just communicate with the district, might be a misunderstanding of the guidelines or a lack of communication. I am publically asking that families be truthful and work with us so we can protect other families, faculty, and staff. It is in everyone’s best interest to work with us in this regard.

J. Mody – regular activities of members of our community are not being careful, so if we are looking to decrease certain guidelines, it is important as a community for everyone to cooperate and follow these guidelines.

B. Wowk – has nothing to add.

Dr. Mandel – I agree with Dr. Constantino and Mrs. Mody – people need to encourage everyone to be truthful and keep doing what we are doing.

G. Holquist – shout it from the rooftops so that people feel safe.

A. Christmann – we want to be able to keep the school open, it has worked and we need to stay in this together.

Dr. Constantino – we recognize that in certain situations of staying within the region it is okay but those that go beyond that – everyone needs to know that there are ramifications that run deep and the rules are written to be followed.

## **XII. Verbal Communications from the Public**

JoAnn Spitaro – 8:53 pm – in regards to the travel regulations – that is not easy and I wish you well with that. Are we looking at another soft opening after the break?

G. Holquist – last month the BOE discussed this and we do not intend on changing the calendar.

Dr. Constantino - 8:55 PM - Public Comment is Closed - Thank you very much.

## **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 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 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 Mr. Thayyar, seconded by Mrs. Mody to move to Closed Executive Session. The Board adjourned to Closed Executive Session at 8:57 pm.**

## **XIV. Reconvene to Work Session Meeting**

Moved by Mr. Thayyar, second by Mr. Wowk, to reconvene to the Regular Work Session Meeting at 9:36 pm., unanimously carried in a voice vote.

## **XV. Adjournment**

Moved by Mr. Thayyar second by Mrs. Mody to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Mosner  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary