

**MENDHAM TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BROOKSIDE, NEW JERSEY  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYMNASIUM  
(MEETING IS BEING HELD VIRTUALLY,  
NO IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE WILL BE ALLOWED)  
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2020, 7:30 PM**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm.

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

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

Mrs. Gretchen Holquist	President	Present
Mr. Aadithya Thayyar	Vice President	Present
Mr. Andrew Christmann		Present (6:08 p.m.)
Mr. Peter Dumovic		Present
Mrs. Heather Fraser		Present
Mr. Richard Gondek		Present
Mrs. Joan Mody		Present

Also present: Dr. Salvatore Constantino, Superintendent  
Mrs. Donna Mosner, School Business Administrator  
General Public – 92 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 – N/A**

**VI. Board Secretary's Report – N/A**

**VII. Board President's Report – N/A**

**VIII. Correspondence – (Attachment)**

➤ Letter from Martin Slayne - Mendham Schools Return Plan - Dated 07/15/20

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

➤ Curriculum and Instruction – Mrs. Mody delivered the report

➤ Operations and Finance – Mr. Thayyar delivered the report

- Personnel and Human Resources - Mrs. Fraser delivered the report
- Policy – Mr. Gondek delivered the report

**X. CONSENT ITEMS** – the following items have been reviewed and will be approved at the regular meeting

**Approval of Minutes**

Work Session Minutes: June 16, 2020  
 Regular Session Minutes: June 23, 2020

**Approval of Executive Minutes:** June 16, 2020

**Curriculum and Instruction**

1. **Tuition Contract with Morris School District**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves a Tuition contract with the Morris School District Board of Education for the 2020 - 2021 school year effective 09/03/2020 through 06/22/2021 for one (1) student (14141029) as per IEP at a cost of \$57,102.00.

2. **School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education accepts the Statement of Assurances for the School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act for 2018 - 2019 school year.

Elementary School scored 75 out of 78  
 Middle School scored 76 out of 78

**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 June 2020 that no major accounts and fund balances in the 2019/2020 budget and July 2020 that no major accounts and fund balances in the 2020/2021 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. **June 2020 Final Transfer Reports**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the June 2020 transfer report.

3. **June 2020 Bills List – Year-End Final**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the final June 2020 Bills List. This includes payroll checks N0184 through N0186 and N0189 through N0194 and N196.

Fund 10	\$ 42,163.55
Fund 11	\$216,490.40
Fund 12	\$ 2,923.61
Fund 12	\$ 1,214.00
Total:	<u>\$262,791.56</u>

**July 2020 Bills List**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the July 2020 Bills List. This includes payroll checks N0197 through N0201.

Fund 10	\$ 2,702.43
Fund 11	\$417,897.56
Total:	<u>\$420,599.99</u>

4. **Appointment of Risk Management Consultant for 2020-2021**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education authorizes the appointment of Mr. Ronald Wolfe and Mr. George Morville of the firm of Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services Inc., as their Risk Management Consultant, for the purpose of securing the renewal insurance for property & casualty, workers compensation, bond, and student accident insurance, along with securing competitive quotes from Joint Insurance Funds and commercial insurance providers offering coverage equal to or better than the coverage currently in place for the 2020-2021 school year.

5. **Educational Services Commission of Morris County Shared Services Agreement and Addendum for 2020 - 2021(Attachment)**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education authorizes the agreement between the Mendham Township Board of Education and the Educational Services Commission of Morris County for the Bidding/Purchasing Program for the 2020 - 2021 school year.

**Personnel and Human Resources**

1. **New Hire: Transportation Driver, Yomelly Parra** (Attachments)

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the appointment of Yomelly Parra, Transportation Driver, for the 2020 - 2021 school year, full time at an hourly rate of \$26.90, effective August 26, 2020.

2. **New Hire: Speech Therapist, Stacey Lipschutz** (Attachments)

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the appointment, pending paperwork, of Stacey Lipschutz, Speech Therapist, for the 2020 - 2021 school year, at an annual salary of \$62,895.00, BA+45/MA, Step 11, effective August 24, 2020.

3. **New Hire: School Counselor, Hillary Clark** (Attachments)

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the appointment, pending paperwork, of Hillary Clark, Elementary School Counselor, for the 2020 - 2021 school year, at an annual salary of \$70,070.00, BA+45/MA, Step 15, effective August 24, 2020.

4. **New Hire: Music Teacher, Lauren Johnson** (Attachments)

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the appointment, pending paperwork, of Lauren Johnson, Part-Time Elementary School Music Teacher, for the 2020 - 2021 school year, at an annual salary of \$42,556.00, BA, Step 3, effective August 24, 2020.

5. **Revised Contract: Karen Schaberg, Middle School Orchestra Teacher**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the revised contract for Karen Schaberg, Middle School Orchestra Teacher, \$92,370.00, F, MA/BA+45, Step 21, for the 2020 - 2021 school year.

6. **Elementary School Schedule B Stipend Positions for 2020 - 2021**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the following 2020-2021 Co-Curricular Stipend positions for Elementary School:

**CO-CURRICULAR Activities (Schedule B)**

Activities	2020-2021 Salary	Staff Member
School Publication Advisors (2)	\$901.00 Each	Tracy Newton TBD
Tiger Leaders/Student Council Advisors (2)	\$1,239.00 Each	Briana Panetta TBD
Technology Integration Specialist	\$2,266.00 Each	Charles Gallo Tracy Newton
Tiger Singers/Chorus Director	\$2,479.00	TBD
Advanced Artist Program Coordinator	\$2,479.00	Sarah Bizzarro
Art Explorer Program Coordinator	\$2,479.00	Sarah Bizzarro
Sustainability Coordinators (2)	\$2,064.50 Each	Tracy Newton Erica Parke

**CO-CURRICULAR Activities (Schedule B) - Special Projects**

Activities	2020-2021 Salary	Staff Member
Social Studies League - Grades 2 & 3	\$225	Nancy Fuller
Festival of the Arts	\$225	Sarah Bizzarro
Science Expo	\$225 Each	Diane Barlow Erica Parke
Health & Wellness Fair	\$225	TBD
Outdoor Learning Center/Chicken Coop Coordinator	\$225	Charles Gallo

**CO-CURRICULAR Activities (Schedule B)- Enrichment Team**

Activities	2020 - 2021 Salary	Staff Member
Talent Show Coordinators	\$225 base + Max of 10 events @ \$56 each, not to exceed a total of \$788.	Briana Panetta Laura Porrovecchio

7. **Elementary School Extra Instructional Periods**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the following Elementary School staff members 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 five (5) times a week for a full year, and independent of placement on the salary guide.

**Extra Instructional Periods**

SMART TIME	3 period/wk	Kellie DeGise	\$5,100
SMART TIME	3 period/wk	Jean Sosna	\$5,100
SMART TIME	3 period/wk	Lisa Lombardo	\$5,100

8. **Approval of Stipend: Curriculum Development and Implementation**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Patrick Ciccone and Julianne Kotcho for the Curriculum Development and Implementation stipends for the 2020 - 2021 school year at the annual rate of \$4,000.00 each.

9. **Elementary School - Summer Hours 2020**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Hillary Clark, School Counselor, and Katelyn Safko, School Nurse, for summer hours not to exceed 25 hours at the rate of \$39.96 per hour.

10. **Middle School - Summer Hours 2020**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Alexandria Perrotta, School Counselor and Erin Giarrusso, School Nurse, for summer hours not to exceed 40 hours at the rate of \$39.96 per hour.

11. **Revised: Summer Transportation**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the change of hours, not to exceed 3 hours per bus cleaning at an hourly rate of \$26.10, originally approved by the Board on 06/23/20 to not exceed 2 hours per bus cleaning.

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12. **Summer Transportation**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the appointment of the following summer transportation staff at an hourly rate of \$26.10:

Yoslin Lopex

Yomelly Parra

13. **Substitute Transportation Driver: Dan Wood**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the appointment of Substitute Transportation Driver, Dan Wood, at an hourly rate of \$23.32 for the 2020 - 2021 school year, effective August 26, 2020.

**Policy and Planning**

1. **First Reading** (*Attachments*)

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

P 1649	Federal Families First Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Act (M) (New)
P 2270	Religion in Schools (Revised)
P 2431.3	Heat Participation Policy for Student-Athlete Safety (M) (Revised)
P 2622	Student Assessment (M) (Revised)
P & R 5111	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students (M) (Revised)
P & R 5200	Attendance (M) (Revised)
P & R 5320	Immunization (Revised)
P & R 5330.04	Administering an Opioid Antidote (M) (Revised)
P 5610	Suspension (M) (Revised)
P 5610	Suspension Procedures (M) (Revised)
P 5620	Expulsion (M) (Revised)
P & R 8320	Personnel Records (M) (Revised)

**Mr. Thayyar moved to approve the Committee Reports and the Consent Items for July 21, 2020; Approval of Regular and Executive Minutes, Curriculum & Instruction items 1-2, Operations & Finance items 1 – 6, Personnel & Human Resources items 1 – 13, Policy and Planning item 1, seconded by Mrs. Fraser and the**

motion was CARRIED in a roll call vote: Mr. Christmann; yes, Mr. Dumovic; yes, Mrs. Fraser; yes, Mr. Gondek; yes, Mrs. Mody; yes, Mr. Thayyar; yes, and Mrs. Holquist, yes – motions carry.

## X. ACTION ITEMS

### Operations and Finance

#### 1. HVAC/Hot Water Boiler Maintenance Agreement (Attachment)

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves J & M Cooling/Heating, LLC of Caldwell, NJ to provide preventive maintenance for the HVAC and Hot Water Boiler equipment at both the Mendham Township elementary and middle schools for the 2020 - 2021 school year.

### Personnel and Human Resources

#### 1. New Hire: Middle School Spanish Teacher, Michael Castro (Attachments)

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the appointment, pending paperwork, of Michael Castro, Middle School Spanish Teacher, for the 2020 - 2021 school year, at an annual salary of \$59,045.00, MA, Step 5, effective August 24, 2020.

**Mr. Thayyar moved to approve the Action Items; Operations & Finance items 1, Personnel & Human Resources items 1, seconded by Mrs. Mody and the motion was CARRIED in a roll call vote: Mr. Christmann; yes, Mr. Dumovic; yes, Mrs. Fraser; yes, Mr. Gondek; yes, Mrs. Mody; yes, Mr. Thayyar; yes, and Mrs. Holquist, yes – motions carry.**

## XI. Discussion

- Restart and Recovery Plan to Reopen Schools, Dr. Constantino

## XII. Verbal Communications from the Public

Board-level discussion and comments - Mr. Gondek – I think the soft opening being proposed is a good approach. Will students have an opportunity to be able to meet teachers, how will that be executed, or are we not there yet.

Dr. Constantino – During that period of the soft opening, that would be ideal with a teacher. Students will be able to do that in a relaxed environment, with staff and fewer people. Accomplishes it with the students and staff. Allows us to have a readiness, and have a dry run with schedules.

Mr. Dumovic – 8 school days, is the intent to have all students to come in during those days

Dr. Constantino – yes

Mr. Dumovic – is it the intent for all teachers to the teacher within the building during those 8 days

Dr. Constantino – not all 8 days but

Mr. Dumovic – does the test involve bus transportation during those days

Dr. Constantino – yes

Mr. Christmann – one comment and question – really like this model, allows us to pivot quickly and gives parents and community to do the same. Let’s parents keep children home if they have a cold. At what point are you going to spend some time on the emergency procedures.

Dr. Constantino – at the very end of last week, a session on emergency procedures was provided and Dr. Koroski attended it. Told a relief to fire drill requirement, not the emergency drill requirement

Mr. Thayyar – Teachers having the ability to not come to school, how will they instruct the students if when they do come if they don’t come in to see it themselves.

Dr. Constantino – our intent to provide faculty information along the way but we also have 2 days to run through an in-service program, the classroom is effected and procedures. Knowing our faculty, I would expect that many of them will come in.

Mrs. Fraser – good for now

Mrs. Mody – commends all of the work administration has done. I still have concerns putting students in the building 5 days per week, I think the hybrid model puts us at less risk. Students together indoors are potentially putting the community at risk.

Dr. Constantino – from the health professional to the government side of this – at what point will they tell us to shift and in all cases the response should be made with your local health officials and DOE, there are not specific indicators right now towards the tipping points. All I can say is that it will be my job daily to find out that information and consult with people to make sure our health screenings and the actual conditions without students and staff and that we are prepared to change with those. At this point, they have been extremely collaborative so I have no reason to think they won’t tell us

Mrs. Mody – so you will utilize the township to inform the rest of the town residents to know what is going on.

Dr. Constantino – I will follow the guidelines as far as I can, you know that there are limits with the information that we can share that is health-related but I will release what I can. It is really up to the health department to share who gets infected and with whom. But we will share as much as we can to keep everyone safe.

Mrs. Holquist – I like the transition period to get the students ramped about the new procedures. Communication is going to be critical to the community and parents. Key times to make a shift, etc. To the extent that we can be clear with what we can control that is what our focus could be.

Mr. Dumovic – clearly the DOE is letting districts do what is best for them. Do you know what is happening with the borough and the high school?

Dr. Constantino – the borough has a half-day model, the group coming in the morning, and another in the afternoon. The high school is splitting the population but I don’t want to give out information that has not been announced. I am sure that will be coming out shortly. I have a chart from another school who have been sharing what they may be doing, there is a range of return options being employed in the area.



Mr. Christmann – recognizing what we have privacy and HIPPA regulations. I don't want to be one of those that follow the black letter words. I think we need to be open and communicate with our community without breaking any of those regulations. I encourage our district to bend over backward to provide communication to the limits that we can. We need to paint a realistic picture, not a rosy one.

Dr. Constantino – I think you can globally say something without an issue to further identify who it may be.

Mrs. Fraser – I brought this up in committee when the country opens up and people have traveled, there needs to be a quarantine time for them and families.

#### Public Comment

Tracy Budnik - 6:25 PM - Dr. C, et all! TY - I would like to ask some questions when appropriate. Thank you for the thoughtfulness and attention to this. I am very pleased to see the 2-week transition. Potential for limited busing capacity, we may need to seek volunteers to drive since we will not be able to drive them all under the current CDC guidelines.

Dr. Constantino – transportation you are correct, that is the initial phase of communication with parents. If they could consider bringing their children to school if they have the capability. In terms of spacing, we are working hard to separate sections of students, empty classrooms of extra bookshelves, and extra furniture. Providing splash guides and physical barriers, masks, and spacing will ensure meet the requirements.

Tracy Budnik – does model anticipate some students to not attend

Dr. Constantino – no it does not.

Tracy Budnik – mentioned classroom being cleaned out creates an un-natural environment, how are teachers going to address this

Dr. Constantino – there are very specific teaching strategies we will need to employ, they are part of an overall program but there are techniques and conversation in regards to this issue.

Tracy Budnik – the mental health of children in that type of environment, they are teachers, not counselors do we need to bring in more counselors to help our staff, students, and families for that matter?

Dr. Constantino – I have already spoken to our current counselors to make certain they address with and stay engaged, we will leverage their professionalism to stay on top of this. We do have trained school psychologists and social workers that are trained counselors to help. We will do everything that we can to support those folks.

Tracy Budnik – how legally protected to our district to attend school if someone contracts it from another person.

Dr. Constantino – I spoke with both the district attorney and insurance carrier to be certain we are covered if that happens. We have training protocols and information. With that being said, we are not completely covered.

Kathleen Wagner - 6:25 PM - Thank you. Does the plan apply to the pre K program as well?



Dr. Constantino – yes, it does apply to the Pre-k, we are looking forward to having them back with us. We had a conversation today to see if we can get more in-classroom time with them

Kristin V - 6:27 PM - Do you know what health effects the sanitation will have on the children? fogger, antibacterial sanitation, etc... is it healthy to breathe, be on the skin, etc.?

Dr. Constantino – all of our products have to be school approved, independent testing, the fogger is a hydrogen peroxide cleaning solution, and they are all tested. Sold by vendors that have to follow guidelines. I have full confidence that they are school and age-appropriate.

Brian Jendryka - 6:27 PM - This seems like a very well thought out plan -- thank you for taking the time to do this right.

Kathleen Wagner - 6:30 PM - Will there be regular testing for COVID 19 for the staff and students?

Dr. Constantino – right now we do not have a protocol to do testing. During the health screening or temperature testing, we would require testing but we will not have a regular program in place.

Heather Tokarz - 6:31 PM - Soft opening sounds great if for nothing else than to meet teacher and teacher meet kids before likeliness of going back to remote learning at some point.

Erica Gibbons - 6:37 PM - Could you please talk more about the communication policies as well as what if a child or staff member tests positive?

Dr. Constantino – I am hoping I covered this, if we receive a positive test, we will immediately inform the health department, 2 administrators have been trained for the contact tracing, we will do our best to inform the community but there are some limitation with what we can give out.

Heather Tokarz - 6:37 PM - If the teacher shows symptoms and is out of school waiting for a couple of weeks on test results, is there a pool of substitutes that would risk coming into our school knowing that they are paid little for potential high risk and unproven methods such as UV HVAC? Just thinking of our teachers' safety and potential of not only losing teachers for an extended time but then having an extended substitute situation for our kids.

Dr. Constantino – right, this is a serious concern of ours as well. We have spoken with some on our list and the new list, we do have a group of subs that are willing to get engaged, we are looking to hire a full-time sub that will be here and willing to take over if needed to prepare as best we can.

Sharalynn Hopkins - 6:39 PM - Are the teachers being given access to anonymously report concerns?

Dr. Constantino – we have not done that up to this point, specifically related to this issue, I hope the nature of our relationship is such that I want them to feel comfortable to relate concern without judgment of my behalf. I will consider this and talk with some of the teacher leadership to see if this is something they may want.

Alison Kosup - 6:40 PM - Hi Dr. C I would like to check in to see if you have an update on my question regarding classes outdoors? Additionally, I would like confirmation that you will be sharing any positive tests of faculty, teachers, children, or staff with parents so we can make informed decisions.

Dr. Constantino – I don't have more I can give to the positive test portion. We are going to work hard to try to set up lots of outdoor options. To teach and get outside and take a walk and change of view.

Alison Kosup – I don't think there is a violation to say that someone has lice, why would this be different

Dr. Constantino – we will work very closely with the health department but there is nothing to stop us from saying there is a positive case but specifics we must follow the guidelines very closely; we will inform our families as much as possible.

Michael H - 6:43 PM - Dr. C., can you explain in a bit more detail the 1/2-day proposal. It was not clear if that was full day M, T but half days W thru Friday. Also, was not clear if this would involve cohorts (e.g. A, B) schedule to reduce the number of students in the school at any one time.

Dr. Constantino – Wednesday is the only half-day; the way the MS is structured we shift a group of students from one classroom to another which we want to have additional cleaning time due to that. Everyone will have the opportunity to attend M-T-TR-F full days.

Erica Gibbons - 6:44 PM - How long must a person stay home and what are the parameters of being allowed back?

Dr. Constantino – in the case of a positive test or signs and symptoms, first to return they will need medical clearance to return. They will have to follow the isolation protocols and be retested to return.

Rochelle Kiam-Abraham - 6:46 PM - Absolutely. I second Mrs. Fraser's comment. The point about families that have been traveling to states that have high cases – more specifically the children need to quarantine before returning.

Dr. Constantino – it does rely on a self-report of who will tell us, we put somewhat of trust in the community to inform us, if we get the information we will investigate but there will be some reliance on self-reporting.

Brian Jendryka - 6:47 PM - I'd like to speak when you get the chance. Thank you this is a ton of work and appreciate all of the efforts and thought that went into this. Another comment to athletics – there is a lot we don't know and that we can control but be behind a computer 8 hours a day, I think the cross country will contribute to the students all around the spirit and give them a focus other than everything going on now

Dr. Constantino – appreciate this, we are in some agreement, we would very much like to see the students have this opportunity, but an issue will be to have partners across the county. The initial program plan has athletics in it with plans to have inter-scholastic and if not intermural athletics if we can not have that to have a distraction and mental health.

Rochelle Kiam-Abraham - 6:48 PM - What are the protocols in place to check for students and staff symptoms? What if a child tests positive? Does the whole class become quarantine? How long?

Dr. Constantino – Protocols involve temperature screening and health screenings daily. If a student test positive, there will be a required quarantine of that person and their class, following the 14-day guidelines currently and require clearance to return. Temperature is taken before getting on the bus and before they enter school is driven by a parent.

Martin Slayne - 6:49 PM - I'd like to speak when you reach this slot

Thank you for sharing my letter from last week. I have seen a lot of social media exchanges from people to go back, I understand it is being done objectively. Looking to medicate the risk to get back.

If people go on vacation and return on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August from FL do we take the risk that they will do the right thing? The flexibility does go in or stay virtual, people will not lose out, there shouldn't be

Dr. Constantino – thank you for your letter. The idea of self-quarantine and trying to create that time before entering school was one of the driving factors to the soft opening. We offer a live stream of what is happening on that day. It is as close as we can get to being there for someone who elects to be at home. We believe we are providing the best option we can, the best education somewhat at par to being in our building. We want to do the very best but I think we are.

Martin Slayne – appreciate the work you are doing and how serious you are taking it.

Dr. Constantino – the political views don't concern me, the only way I could do this is putting the faculty and students' best interest first.

Brian Baldwin - 6:52 PM - Will you still be using Google Meet for the virtual component?

Dr. Constantino – we will continue since we have been using it safely

Monica Eyers - 6:54 PM - What will the PPE protocols be? Are children and teachers expected to wear masks in the classroom? will there be partitions between the desks? etc

Dr. Constantino – yes, unless they are in class behind the splash guide at the desk, other times, yes wear at all times.

Rochelle Kiam-Abraham - 7:00 PM - Waiver is not enforceable

Lauren Garofalo - 7:00 PM - Where are we with enrollment? I'm counting the "under contract" signs and concerned we may not be ready for all these new, last-minute families moving here because the word has spread as to how fabulous the MTSD is! I can be a team player and deal with the modification to the plan that was presented last week, but I do have concerns that the soft opening will not end when planned and continue on and on. Can you please speak to that? when will this modified plan be fully fleshed out and shared?

Dr. Constantino – we have received some new families and we are excited about that. We have no level of concern. I am going to make the best decision for the faculty and students at the time but it could certainly change over time. We will be sharing as much information between now and the start of school as possible. This Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup> and moving forward.

Erica Gibbons - 7:04 PM - yes, I'm good

Rochelle Kiam-Abraham - 7:04 PM - I'm concerned about the families currently traveling to states with high COVID cases. Are there protocols in place to have these children quarantine upon returning to NJ and more specifically before school commences?

Asked already and answered.

Heather Tokarz - 7:04 PM - Our pediatric practice has no set plan to date for dealing with the flu/COVID combo season. Additionally, currently, our kids would be sent to Med Express and wait 7-10 days for COVID results. Has the possibility of entire class needing to be tested and all like scenarios across our community been considered-ie causing even longer wait times/increased exposure for test results? Is there confidence that NJ will be prepared for the increase in testing amidst 7 months of similar symptom flu season?

Dr. Constantino – I have spoken with health officials and Morristown memorial. We may need a significant amount of testing in a given time. In regards to the flu season, I don't feel comfortable speaking to that.

Tracy Budnik - 7:07 PM - Has a cost-value analysis been conducted to determine if the potential drain on our capital reserve to convert the buildings to "safe" would be worth the implementation? What is the total anticipated cost of the accommodations for the 1st quarter and 1st Half of the school year -- (assuming a therapeutic were to become available)? How are these changes being funded?

Dr. Constantino – we have identified areas in our general fund budget to divert funds to help with this, we also have CARES act funding and FEMA funding available. As of now, we have a minimal impact on the general fund, so the financial part of it is not the number one concern, it is more about health and safety. The finance committee is diving into this over the next quarter.

Andre Couto - 7:11 PM - How is optional virtual learning going to be addressed? Are classes going to be live-streamed? How do you see teachers being able to engage with both live and virtual students?

Dr. Constantino – yes, live-streamed. Working on the best methods, more details will come with your meetings with the principals

Brian Baldwin - 7:11 PM - Is the district planning on continuing the traditional offerings -- ie PE, Spanish, science, Quest, band, etc during the time that students are in school? Following up, what about students that are remotely learning?

Dr. Constantino – yes, PE and Spanish are required programing, and science will continue. QUEST and all GT will be rethought, working on it now, since we need to reappropriate staff to accommodate smaller sections. The band will not engage at the start of the year but will be monitored to implement safely. All sign-in students can take part in those. Music will need a controlled setting.

Melanie Smith - 7:12 PM - Will the technology be available for outside learning- how will that affect the students tuning in from home. Will teachers bring cameras with them outside and will the wi-fi extend outside?

Dr. Constantino – Wifi does extend outside and cameras will also, outdoor classrooms are being worked on.

Lindsay DiGiacomo - 7:15 PM - Hi! Was there an answer yet on students bringing their own masks vs those being supplied - if it is the supplied masks how we will ensure they will stay with the students to eliminate others touching or loosing during the day. Ty again for giving parents the options available.

Dr. Constantino – have asked for a ruling from the department of health and DOE on this, as soon as I have it I will provide it.

Rochelle Kiam-Abraham - 7:15 PM - How do the half-day Wednesday impact the 180 days of instruction? Do you anticipate ending school year later to make up for the time?

Dr. Constantino – a 4-hour day does count as a full instructional day. It will not change the 180 count.

Tricia O'Brien - 7:15 PM - Will there be an option to join in outdoor classes for kids live-streaming at home at times?

Dr. Constantino – yes

Stella Cicerone - 7:16 PM - Will the kids are required to bring lunch from home or can they buy lunch?

Dr. Constantino – yes, but it will be brought to them, no more in café dining

Jane Leonard - 7:21 PM - Thank you all again for your time and effort to inform the community leading up to our first days of school for our children. Regarding the children's daily health while in school, will the school nurse and/or the schools be equipped if children lack oxygen saturation while wearing a mask for a prolonged period of time? What are the steps for caring for the child? Thank you.

Dr. Constantino – we don't intend for students to have a mask for a prolonged period of time. Wearing it in the transition period. In terms of lacking oxygen, I will have to consult with making certain we are prepared for this if it is an issue in regards to this situation.

Christina Rilke - 7:26 PM - Will students participating in after school sports be required to wear face masks and maintain distance?

Dr. Constantino – there are specific guidelines we will have to follow – a release was provided today that I can share with you

Lindsay DiGiacomo - 7:26 PM - Re: the hypothetical classmates quarantining - will the whole class then move to distance for learning and when you say they will need medical clearance - what is the medical clearance needed if the classmates do not present with symptoms/temperature. Is it a negative test? Is it an antibody test? Can you elaborate on what is exactly required for those students to return?

Dr. Constantino – a negative test if they were in close contact with a positive test case to return, that is a guideline.

Heather Tokarz - 7:29 PM - Lots of talk about temperature checks but what about the rest of the symptoms that kids may be afraid to communicate or may not recognize? Can we assume kids will not be questioned daily re all possible symptoms? And of course out of luck on asymptomatic cases.

Dr. Constantino – there will be a health screening and questionnaire parents must fill out daily.

Michele Scaramellino - 7:39 PM - If there were enough student interest would we be able to have one distant learning class per grade solely taught the way it was last spring rather than live streaming?

Dr. Constantino – there was discussion about that a survey was sent out and we are collecting data

Lindsay DiGiacomo - 7:39 PM - Re: limited busing - how will parents opt-in or opt-out of busing to meet the needs of the district.

Dr. Constantino – sending a parent survey

Brian Baldwin - 7:45 PM - you skipped me – questions answered.

Natasha Crossan - 7:50 PM - Will MTES offer similar grade-level-specific discussions, as MTMS is doing? Specifically, for incoming pre-k/kindergarteners, who have unique challenges in being completely new to the school, will there be the opportunity to more fully understand what the day-to-day will look like for a kindergartener, ramifications/considerations for not sending an eligible child to kindergarten, etc.?

Dr. Constantino – yes, 100% MTES will be doing the discussions, an email notification will be coming within the next week to 10 days. There are no ramifications as a K or PreK student, this issue starts in first grade.

Rochelle Kiam-Abraham - 7:53 PM - How will children that go to resource room work? Will resource children move around or stay in classrooms?

Dr. Constantino – They would move to one classroom to another, again, it will be done safely via procedures that have been created.

Lauren Garofalo - 7:54 PM - Has a decision been made on aftercare?

Dr. Constantino – no – hoping to have during principal meetings

Jane Leonard - 7:59 PM - Since outdoor learning will be an option, have we determined where the "outdoor classrooms" will be? Will they be held in the garden within the safety of the school walls since our school has since been outfitted from the exterior? If the classes are to be near the playground or blacktop, what form of extra security measures has the school district considered at this time? Thank you.

Dr. Constantino – we are going to try to do them in not easily accessible locations, it has come up recently do I don't have specifics at this time but we are looking to create spaces in a smarter way.

Rekha Mandel - 7:59 PM - Thank you for working so hard to give our community so many options! Just wanted to add from a physician's point of view research has verified that oxygen saturation does not drop when you wear a mask, in addition, you do not retain carbon dioxide.

Dr. Constantino – thank you, that is great to hear.

Lindsay DiGiacomo - 8:02 PM - Due to visitor restrictions, I'm assuming there will be no "classroom parents" this coming school year?

Dr. Constantino – this is something but the role may be different than in the past.

CLOSED

New motion

Mr. Dumovic – I very much like what I saw last week and also the soft and safe Reopening Plan. I want to know where the needed funds are coming from. Last week we heard about additional transportation resources and aides. I fully support the Reopening Plan but I also feel it is important to understand the additional costs and what that means now and for the entire school year.

Mr. Gondek – we are voting for the plan and communication to go forward on the 24<sup>th</sup>, not an option but if data changes over the next few weeks, it is more the vote for a plan, changes take place and it is more about communication and other options we don't want to be in catchup if we need to pivot. We need to keep them all available.

Mr. Christmann – I would like to hear a clarification on the motion on the table

Dr. Constantino – authorize SC to communicate to the public that we are going to begin our school year under option #1 as per the discussion tonight and last week and data evolve.

Mr. Gondek – that is what I was trying to say

Mrs. Fraser – I agree

Mrs. Holquist – I fully support this, but we need to be certain that we have the funding and safety protocols set up in the process. Please leverage the committees and BOE as much as needed.

Mr. Christmann – listening to conversation and public, I am hesitantly supporting option 1 but there is too much work to be done and do this the right way. On a personal level, I want to see how this evolves. Don't stay a course to just stay a course to be within the guidelines.

Mrs. Fraser – if there is a huge cluster in this area, we can move, it may change and we are agreeing to do that.

Mrs. Mody – I cannot support this but it does not reflect all of the work that has been done, I awe of all the creativity and time that has gone into this.



Dr. Constantino – we are staying very attentive to know what our current conditions are and the current information to have an impact on our decision-making process. The plan allows us to prepare and move between them as the info and data indicate and do it quickly so as not to displace students. I agree with the cautioning to not do something that may not be responsible for our staff.

**On motion by Mr. Dumovic, that the Mendham Township Board of Education supports option #1 and approves the restart and recovery plan to reopen school recommended by Dr. Constantino, seconded by Mr. Gondek and the motion was CARRIED in a roll call vote: Mr. Christmann; yes, Mr. Dumovic; yes, Mrs. Fraser; yes, Mr. Gondek; yes, Mrs. Mody; no, Mr. Thayyar; yes, and Mrs. Holquist, yes – motion carries.**

**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 goals and 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. Christmann, seconded by Mrs. Fraser, to move to Closed Executive Session. The Board adjourned to Closed Executive Session at 8:18 pm.

**XIV. Reconvene to Open Work Session**

Moved by Mr. Thayyar, second by Mrs. Fraser, to reconvene to the Regular Session Meeting at 10:16 pm., unanimously carried in a voice vote.

**XV. Discussion – None.**

**XIV. Adjournment**

Moved by Mr. Gondek, second by Mr. Christmann to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Mosner  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary