

**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, MARCH 23, 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	Absent
Mr. Peter Dumovic		Present
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 – 2 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

- Recently, both schools hosted virtual meetings with Ruby Bridges, a symbol of the civil rights movement and who was, at age six, the youngest of a group of African American students to integrate schools in the American South. Ruby's story was shared and she was kind enough to respond to many questions from the students. This was an amazing experience and I want to thank all the people who helped make this experience happen for our students.
- On March 16, I announced to the Mendham Township Board of Education a plan to return all MTMS students to in-person learning in their classrooms after spring break, beginning Wednesday, April 14. Families who prefer distance learning may choose to remain in a virtual option.

- On April 14, all students will return to MTMS classrooms every day, regardless of whether they are Blue or Gold.
- If you wish to choose the five-day-per-week remote option from your current school, please notify the school office by March 26.
- We will continue our early dismissal Wednesdays to ensure that the entire facility is disinfected and cleaned mid-week.
- At MTMS, all persons will follow physical distancing of 6-feet where possible, 4-feet or more at all times
- We will continue to follow all guidelines including universal and correct use of masks, physical distancing, hand washing, and respiratory etiquette, cleaning to maintain healthy facilities, and diagnostic testing with rapid and efficient contact tracing in combination with isolation in quarantine and in collaboration with local health departments

I recently sent a survey and program planning form to our faculty in regard to summer programming. Over the next few weeks, we will be exploring ideas for student classes. This programming will run through the curriculum committee and be reported on at upcoming meetings.

P. Dumovic – any word from the NJDOE on whether statewide student achievement tests will need to be administered this spring?

Dr. Constantino – as of now we are planning to take them – not progress to report to not take them, we are preparing as if we need to take them this year.

VI. Board Secretary’s Report

- **Operations & Finance:**

- Review of budget calendar upcoming dates

- April 22, 2021 – Advertised for Public Hearing

- March 4, 2021 – Public Hearing on the 2021-2022 budget

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

- May 18, 2021 – Certification of 2021-2022 budget & A4F taxes

VII. Board President’s Report – Exchanged emails with BOE President from the Borough, will be connecting at the end of April.

Ad Hoc report – summarized expenses and a range and areas of interest, high-level innovation labs and science and technology in both buildings, ensure safe and suitable grounds, things the community can use, and basic facilities so that they are appropriate usable. This is the area where we will ask the firm to do due diligence, what if anything we would like to put out for a referendum – consistency with themes, it is now a matter of getting it to have the cost and priorities that make sense.

Next BOE meeting – if we have a meeting on the 13th due we have enough time to meet the DOE deadlines. Obviously, the 6th would allow for some discussion and review, possible to make some revisions prior to submittal. The 13th may be more challenging – the 6th would be better. April 6th @ 7:30 pm – need to advertise for this special meeting.

B. Wowk – would like information before meeting to review

Dr. Constantino – I should be able to get it out a workday or two after the meeting on Friday

P. Dumovic – I concur with this, thanks for that it will allow us to get through the meeting much faster.

VIII. Correspondence – None.

X. Consent Items

Approval of Minutes

Work Session Minutes: February 16, 2021

Regular Session Minutes: February 23, 2021

Approval of Executive Minutes: February 16, 2021

Curriculum and Instruction – N/A

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 February 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 February 2021 Board Secretary’s Reports.

3. **Treasurer’s Report**

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

4. **February 2021 Transfer Reports**

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

5. **March 2021 Bills List**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the final March 2021 Bills List. This includes payroll checks N0261 through N0263, N0264 through N0268.

Fund 10 \$ 49,997.97

Fund 11 \$1,833,773.43

Fund 20	\$ 9,410.01
Fund 60	\$ 8,757.81
Fund 80	\$ 300.00
Total:	<u>\$1,902,219.22</u>

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
GRIT 360 Basketball	<u>MS</u> Gyms	Thursdays	5:00pm - 9:00pm	Kerry Fodering ham
		03/25/21,		
		04/08/21,		
		04/15/21,		
		04/22/21,		
		04/29/21,		
		05/06/21,		
		05/13/21,		
		05/20/21,		
		05/27/21,	5:00pm - 9:00pm	
06/03/21,				
06/10/21,				
06/17/21,	9:00am - 2:00pm			
06/24/21				
Friday				
04/16/21				
Saturday				
04/17/21				

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

7. **District Travel**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Board of Education approves the listed 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 \$0.35 per mile).

Program Name	Date	Employee	Event Cost	Total Cost
YogArt: Infuse SEL practices into the Art Room (Virtual 6:00pm-7:00pm)	03/03/21 03/10/21 03/17/21	Sarah Bizzarro	\$40.00	\$40.00

	03/24/21 03/31/21 04/07/21 04/14/21 04/21/21 04/28/21			
Solution – Focused Workshop (Virtual)	03/12/21 03/19/21	Alexandria Perrotta	\$97.00	\$97.00
NJ School Counselor Conference (Virtual)	04/16/21	Hillary Clark	\$20.00	\$20.00

8. **Transportation Agreement - Morris Plains School District for the 2021 - 2024 School Years (Attachment)**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the joint transportation agreement between Mendham Township Board of Education and the Morris Plains School District for a three (3) year period effective July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024.

9. **Alliance for Competitive Energy Services (ACES) Resolution**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the Alliance For Competitive Energy Services (hereinafter referred to as “ACES”), an alliance composed of the New Jersey School Boards Association (hereinafter referred to as “NJSBA”), the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, and the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials will solicit bids from electric power suppliers for electric generation services through an energy aggregation program. NJSBA will act as Lead Agency of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 *et seq.*, and the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act (citation) and the regulations promulgated thereto; and

WHEREAS, the Mendham Township School District is a Participating member of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS and is eligible thereby to obtain electric generation services for its use through a contract awarded to electric power suppliers following said bid for electric generation services pursuant to the aggregation program; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will issue a Request for Bids for electric generation services on behalf of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System pursuant to the “Public School Contracts Law”, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 *et seq.* and the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act,” N.J.S.A. 48:3-49 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, due to significant volatility and the potential for price increases in the wholesale electric market, Participating Units will preauthorize the Lead Agency to award a contract for Electric Generation Service to a supplier(s) whose prices will provide estimated savings to the Participating Unit, based on its previous electric usage;

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will only award contracts for said electric generation services to electric power suppliers that submit bids with prices estimated to be lower than the utility-provided basic generation service; and

WHEREAS, the District agrees to purchase all-electric power needed for its use (exclusive of on-site electric generation sources) through the electric power supplier(s) awarded said contract for a term not to exceed two years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the District binds itself to the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS to purchase all-electric power needed for its use (exclusive of on-site electric generation sources) from the electric power supplier(s) awarded the contract for electric generation services by the Lead Agency; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lead Agency of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System is hereby authorized to execute a master performance agreement that obligates the district to purchase electricity at the terms and conditions stated therein with a third-party supplier or suppliers who have been awarded the contract or contracts by the Lead Agency on behalf of the Districts of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS (or any CPS number to be assigned in the future) for a term not to exceed two years and at prices determined by the Lead Agency to provide estimated savings to the Districts relative to the price charged for basic generation service by the electric public utility that would otherwise provide such service; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that ACES is authorized to continue to rebid to obtain electric generation services on behalf of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System if energy market conditions do not lead to a successful bid, dates to be determined by the Lead Agency; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage. Any recession of this resolution shall not affect any Agreements entered into prior to such recession.

Personnel and Human Resources

1. **Substitute Teachers** (*Attachments*)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the following substitute teachers, pending completion of paperwork, for the 2020 - 2021 school year at the current rate of \$92.00 per day.

Katherine LoVecchio, Laura Ryan

2. **New Hire Transportation Bus Aide - Carolyn Allen**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the appointment of Carolyn Allen, Transportation Bus Aide, at an hourly rate of \$24.17 per hour, two hours per day, not to exceed \$2,417.00, effective March 24, 2021, through June 9, 2021.

3. **Leave of Absence - Christopher Hemmings** (*Attachment*)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education hereby approves Christopher Hemmings, Middle School Custodian, for a medical leave of absence, having received doctor's certification, commencing March 5, 2021, under the Federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), ending after two (2) weeks on March 19, 2021, while utilizing Eleven (11) sick days.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves Christopher Hemmings with an anticipated return to work date of March 22, 2021.

4. **Rescind: Unpaid Days Transportation Driver - Steven Molnar**
BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education rescinds the unpaid days for Steven Molnar, Transportation Driver's effective March 5, 2021.

Policy and Planning

1. **Second Reading** (*Attachments*)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves for second reading and adoption of 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)

Mr. Thayyar moved to approve the Committee Reports and the Consent Items for March 23, 2021; Approval of Regular and Executive Minutes, Curriculum & Instruction items 0, Operations & Finance items 1 – 9, Personnel & Human Resources items 1-4, Policy and Planning item 1, seconded by Mr. Dumovic and the motion was CARRIED in a roll call vote: Mr. Dumovic; yes, Dr. Mandel; yes, Mrs. Mody; yes, Mr. Thayyar; yes, Mr. Wowk; yes, and Mrs. Holquist, yes – motions carry.

XI. ACTION ITEMS

Personnel and Human Resources

1. **Seasonal Custodians**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the following Seasonal Custodians, effective Saturday, March 27, 2021, through Sunday, April 4, 2021, at the current rate of \$12.00 per hour.

Evelyn Minuche, Maria Tapia

Mr. Thayyar moved to approve the Action Items for March 23, 2021; Curriculum & Instruction item 0, Operations & Finance item 0, Personnel & Human Resources item 1, Policy and Planning item 0, seconded by Mrs. Mody, and the motion was CARRIED in a roll call vote: Mr. Dumovic; yes, Dr. Mandel; yes, Mrs. Mody; yes, Mr. Thayyar; yes, Mr. Wowk; yes, and Mrs. Holquist, yes – motion carries.

XII. Discussion

P. Dumovic – will you be sending out a flyer about spring break – a reminder of what happens if they go away

Dr. Constantino – has been sent out by both principals and there has been much effort in regards to this.

R. Wowk – verbal communication after the votes – might behoove us to hear from the public before we vote on certain things. The public may have a comment or want to comment before we vote.

Dr. Cosntantino – during the public hearing that does get addressed before the vote takes place, the public will get to talk first - Some boards of education allow for a second public comment section on agenda items only, then it is open to the public later.

XIII. Verbal Communications from the Public

No comments from the public - Salvatore Constantino - 7:55 PM – Public Comment is closed - Thank you.

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 a personnel matter. 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 Dr. Mandel, seconded by Mr. Thayyar to move to Closed Executive Session. The Board adjourned to Closed Executive Session at 8:08 pm.

XV. Reconvene Open Regular Session Meeting

Moved by Mr. Thayyar, second by Mr. Wowk, to reconvene to the Regular Work Session Meeting at 8:09 pm., unanimously carried in a voice vote.

XVI. Adjournment

Moved by Mrs. Mody second by Dr. Mandel to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm. Respectfully submitted,



Donna Mosner
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary