

**MENDHAM TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BROOKSIDE, NEW JERSEY  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYMNASIUM  
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022, 7:30 PM**

**I. Call to Order -** The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

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

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

Mrs. Gretchen Holquist	President	Present
Mrs. Joan Mody	Vice President	Present
Mr. Andrew Christmann		Present
Mr. Adam Dubeck		Present
Mr. Peter Dumovic		Present
Mr. Thomas Keeling		Present
Dr. Rekha Mandel		Present

Also present: Dr. Salvatore Constantino, Superintendent  
Mrs. Donna Mosner, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
General Public – none

**IV. Sunshine Law –** Mrs. Holquist read the following statement -

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, the 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 and 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
- 2022-2023 Budget Presentation/Review

On January 18, 2022, Governor Murphy signed legislation that ensures that the contributions, history, and heritage of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) are included in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSL) for Social Studies in kindergarten through Grade 12 (P.L.2021, c.416); and establishes the Commission on Asian American Heritage within the New Jersey Department of Education.

The purpose of the Commission on Asian American Heritage is in part to “survey, design, encourage, and promote the implementation of Asian or Asian American cultural and educational programs in this State.” The Commission on Asian American Heritage will be supported by the NJDOE’s Office of Commissions, which also interfaces with the New Jersey Amistad Commission, the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, the New Jersey Commission

on Italian and Italian American Heritage, and the New Jersey Commission on Latino and Hispanic Heritage.

In accordance with P.L.2021, c.416, all school districts are required to select and adopt inclusive instructional materials that portray the cultural diversity of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders for implementation in the 2022-2023 school year. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Educational Resources website features numerous AAPI-specific websites that provide educational resources and materials for consideration. Additionally, the NJDOE is planning professional development and training opportunities in the upcoming months to support the implementation of this legislation.

Legislative Notes:

A3816- Late Start Time for HS

The bill has slowed down, it was stated that even Chatham's plan would not meet the requirements of the bill since it says you must start AFTER 8:30 AM.

Discussion continues with legislators, that the impact on K-8 districts needs to be considered as the shortage of bus drivers and busses will be even greater.

A2199- Flexibility on Virtual Days (Caputo Bill) was warmly received by the legislators, with only one committee voting against it.

Postings for 22-23 vacancies will go out this weekend. A significant effort is underway to recruit a diverse and large candidate pool. All of our usual efforts (web and newspaper) along with NYT and college recruitment. (RU, SHU, MSU, Caldwell, NJCU, WPU) We are waiting to receive feedback on our diversity statement in the advertisement.

QSAC - May 4 (visit), April 25 (document submittal)

Superintendent's evaluation - currently entering my information. An email will come to each member's school district email. Must be completed, reviewed at a BOE meeting, and signed during June.

#### SEL, LGBTQ document

The MTSD is deeply committed to ensuring that schools are safe, welcoming, and inclusive environments for all students regardless of race or ethnicity, sexual and gender identities, mental and physical abilities, and religious beliefs. The New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) are designed to support the development of curricula that highlight the contributions and experiences of individuals with diverse abilities, cultures, identities, and perspectives.

This document outlines how at each grade level (MTMS 6-8) the MTSD has addressed the standards in the curriculum. K-5 is not included in the standards and LGBTQ curriculum implementation begins at grade 6. SEL information, Family Life information, and Family unit information (all NJSLS) are available on each of the schools' websites under the curriculum.

The NJSLS Family Life Units are posted on the MTMS site and in compliance with N.J.S.A. 18:35-4-6, the opportunity is offered to parents and/or guardians who have objections to any part of the program to excuse their child from that particular section.

**VI. Board Secretary’s Report**

2022-2023 Proposed budget was approved by the county without issue  
The advertised budget is going into the paper next week  
A public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, May 3, 2022, @ 7:30 pm.  
QSAC is scheduled for Wednesday, May 4, 2022  
Operations & Finance  
Governance  
Building Review/Walkthrough

**VII. Board President’s Report**

Process moving forward in regards to Laura Bishop as a BOE – bring up a discussion item or send topics to Ops & Finance moving forward so that we have a system setup.

**VIII. Correspondence – None.**

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

- Curriculum and Instruction – Dr. Mandel delivered the report
- Operations and Finance – Mr. Christmann delivered the report – presentation delivered by Dr. Constantino with the 1.25% tax increase. BOE decided it would be best to increase that to 1.45% - details to committee before next meeting
- Personnel and Human Resources - Mrs. Mody delivered the report
- Policy – Mr. Dumovic delivered the report
- Ad Hoc Diversity – Mrs. Mody delivered the report

**X. Consent Items**

**Approval of Minutes**

Work Session Minutes: March 15, 2022

Regular Session Minutes: March 22, 2022

**Approval of Executive Minutes:** March 22, 2022

**Curriculum and Instruction**

1. **New - Middle School Curriculum** (Attachment)

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approve the adoption of the new Middle School Social-Emotional Learning Curriculum for Grades 5th - 8th for the 2022-2023 school year.

2. **New - Middle School Field Trip**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approve the following field trip for the 2021-2022 school year:

			Cost to	Cost to	
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Date	Grade	Activity	Transportation	Student	Chaperones
06/01/22	5th	Fairview Lake YMCA	District Bus	\$62.00	Craig Clausen Erica Hays Elizabeth Hollman Jessica Mallonee Megan Ryan Hannah Tapia Kelly Wilce Nurse - TBD

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves payment at the contractual rate of \$120.00 for field trips which extend the day by more than two (2) hours to the above 5th Grade chaperones attending the Fairview Lakes YMCA field trip.

3. **Bring Your Child to Work Day**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approve April 28, 2022, as “Bring Your Child to Work Day” in the Mendham Township Schools.

4. **2019-2021 Comprehensive Equity Plan Extension Statement of Assurance for the 2022-2023 School Year** (Attachment)

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approve the submission for the extension of its current Comprehensive Equity Plan for the 2022-2023 school year.

**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 April 2022 that no major accounts and fund balances in the 2021/2022 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 March 2022 Board Secretary’s Reports.

3. **Treasurer’s Report**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the March 2022 Treasurer’s Reports.

4. **April 2022 Transfer Reports**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the April 2022 transfer report.

5. **April 2022 Bills List**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the final April 2022 Bills List. This includes payroll checks N0371 through N0376 and N0377 through N037\_\_.

Fund 10	\$
Fund 11	\$
Fund 20	\$
Fund 60	\$
Total:	\$

6. **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
CORE Reading Academy “Science of Reading” (Online)	04/21/22 thru 06/29/22	Amanda Fullem Erica Parke	\$600.00	\$1,200.00
Examining and Understanding Diversity of Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation (Online)	05/03/22	Michele Casse-Ippolito Elyse Greenbaum	\$60.00	\$120.00
Complex Trauma in Children (Online)	05/10/22 05/11/22	Elyse Greenbaum	\$120.00	\$120.00
Social Media’s Influence on Self-harm Behaviors and Self-regulation (Online)	05/19/22	Michele Casse-Ippolito	\$60.00	\$60.00
Understand the Trans/Nonbinary	06/23/22	Michele Casse-Ippolito	\$60.00	\$60.00

Experience and Providing Affirming Care (Online)				
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7. **2022-2023 Joint Transportation Agreement with Educational Services Commission of Morris County** *(Attachment)*

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the 2022-2023 Joint Transportation Agreement between the Mendham Township Board of Education and the Educational Services Commission of Morris County.

8. **2022-2023 Professional Support/Non-Public Service Agreement with Educational Services Commission of Morris County** *(Attachment)*

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the 2022-2023 Professional Support/Non-Public Service Agreement between the Mendham Township Board of Education and the Educational Services Commission of Morris County.

9. **Transportation 2022 Summer Trip Rates**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the 2022 Summer Transportation rates as follows:

School Bus: \$65.00/hourly rate      Van: 55.00/hourly rate

**Personnel and Human Resources**

1. **Staff Retirement - Margaret Hogan** *(Attachment)*

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education, accepts with regret, the letter of retirement from Margaret Hogan, Transportation Supervisor, dated March 22, 2022, effective June 30, 2022.

2. **Staff Retirement - Domingo Mercado** *(Attachment)*

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education, accepts with regret, the letter of retirement from Domingo Mercado, Transportation Driver, dated April 12, 2022, effective June 30, 2022.

3. **Staff Resignation - Ignacio Angulo-Pizarro** *( Attachment)*

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education, accepts the letter of resignation from Ignacio Angulo-Pizarro, Middle School Music/Chorus Teacher, dated April 8, 2022, effective June 10, 2022.

4. **Unpaid Absence - Susan Romero** *(Attachment)*

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Susan Romero to take April 28, 2022, through May 2, 2022 (2.5 days) as unpaid absences.

5. **Elementary School Activity Chaperones - Talent Show (April 27, 2022)**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves payment to the following two (2) chaperones at the contractual rate of \$100.00 each for events that start after contractual hours for the Co-Curricular Activity. Sara Bresky, Lauren Johnson

6. **Elementary School Activity Chaperones - Festival of the Arts (May 26, 2022)**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves payment to the following four (4) chaperones at the contractual rate of \$100.00 each for events that start after contractual hours for the Co-Curricular Activity.

Dawn Cullinan, Hannah Dunlevy, Katelyn Jones, Tracy Newton

**XI. 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 legal 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. Keeling, seconded by Mrs. Mody, to move into Closed Executive Session, unanimously carried in a roll call vote. The Board adjourned to Closed Executive Session at 8:45 p.m.

**XII. Reconvene Open Regular Session Meeting**

Moved by Mr. Christmann, seconded by Mrs. Mody, to reconvene to the Work Session Meeting at 8:50 p.m., unanimously carried in a voice vote.

**XIII. ACTION ITEMS**

**MENDHAM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION**

**Board of Education Resolution Nominating Gretchen Holquist as a Candidate for the 2022 Irene LeFebvre Excellence in Boardmanship Award**

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

**WHEREAS**, Gretchen Holquist has served six years of distinction as a member of the Mendham Township Board of Education (2017-2022); and

**WHEREAS**, Gretchen Holquist has been a thoughtful and respectful board member, and as the President of the Board of Education (2020-2022) has demonstrated a commitment to teamwork,

consensus building, and collaborative decision-making, and encouraged community involvement in district planning; and

**WHEREAS**, Gretchen Holquist has demonstrated a continual focus on improving student achievement and driving strong student outcomes for all students of the Mendham Township School District and turned the district’s vision to provide the best education possible for “Every Student, Every Day”, into reality; and

**WHEREAS**, Gretchen Holquist’s exemplary leadership and dedicated service as a member of the Mendham Township Board of Education was instrumental in the achievement of significant accomplishments of the Mendham Township School District, including: Development of the district’s strategic plan (2018-2023); Execution of the superintendent’s new employment contract (2019-2024); Overseeing the elementary school’s recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence (2019); Execution of a new agreement with the Mendham Township Education Association (2021-2024); Facilitating the safe and successful re-opening of schools and return to in-person student learning during the 2020-2021 school year; Advancing the work of diversity, inclusivity and equity in the district in collaboration with the community and faculty (2021-2022); Seeking authorization of Mendham Township voters to overwhelmingly approve a \$19.9 Million school bond referendum for capital improvements at the elementary school and the middle school (2022); and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education does hereby express its sincere appreciation to Gretchen Holquist for her dedication, leadership, and outstanding contributions to the education of all Mendham Township School District students.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education Secretary submit the nomination of Gretchen Holquist and this resolution to the Morris County School Boards Association for consideration as a worthy candidate for the 2022 Irene LeFebvre Excellence in Boardmanship Award.

**Curriculum and Instruction**

1. **Previously Approved - Middle School Field Trip**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the following field trip for the 2021-2022 school year:

Date	Grade	Activity	Cost to Transportation	Cost to Student	Chaperones
04/07/22	8th Grade Leaders	Visit MTES to discuss the transition to MTMS	District Bus	\$0	Alexandria Perrotta

**Personnel and Human Resources**

1. **Leave of Absence - Lisa Lombardo**



**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board hereby approves Lisa Lombardo, Elementary School Teacher, for an intermittent unpaid leave of absence, as needed, commencing April 13, 2022, under the Federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and NJ Family Leave Act (NJFLA) ending on June 9, 2022.

2. **Unpaid Absence - Susie Lebron Vega**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Susie Lebron Vega to take April 4, 2022 (1 day) as an unpaid absence.

3. **Substitute Teachers**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the following Substitute Teachers, pending completion of paperwork, at the current rate of \$125.00 per day for the 2021-2022 school year. Jennifer Avallon, Kelly Bierals, Karen Muha

**Mr. Christmann moved to approve the Action Items from April 19, 2022 as presented; Nomination for Mrs. Holquist, Curriculum & Instruction item 1, Personnel and Human Resources item 1-3, seconded by Dr. Mandel and the motion was CARRIED in a roll call vote: Mr. Dubeck; yes, Mr. Dumovic; yes, Mr. Keeling; yes, Dr. Mandel; yes, Mrs. Mody; yes, Mr. Christmann; yes, and Mrs. Holquist; yes – motion carries.**

**XIV. Discussion**

Mr. Christmann – Mr. Dumovic moved on the idea of nominating Mrs. Holquist and he did most of this, thank you.

Mr. Dumovic – Thank you. Gretchen’s recognition is well deserved. Her nomination for the Irene LeFebvre Excellence in Boardmanship Award will be considered along with other Morris County School Board nominees by an impartial committee made up of board members from outside of Morris County. Mrs. Holquist’s nomination and our board’s resolution is very good news for our school district and the broader Mendham Township community.

Dr. Constantino – please check your calendars, since we have three meetings in May, looking to have only one in June, so be on the lookout for an email from me to finalize a date.

Mr. Dumovic – I have one suggestion for next year – when students come to these meetings, everyone is happy, and so do their parents. I think we should consider having students come to every Regular monthly meeting. Once a month to recognize them is well worthwhile and good for everyone.

**XV. Verbal Communications from the Public – None.**

**XIV. Adjournment**

Moved by Mrs. Mody, second by Dr. Mandel to adjourn the work session meeting of April 19, 2022. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Mosner  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary