

**MENDHAM TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BROOKSIDE, NEW JERSEY  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYMNASIUM  
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2022, 7:30 PM**

**I. Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm.

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

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

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

Also, present: Dr. Salvatore Constantino, Superintendent  
Mrs. Donna Mosner, School Business Administrator  
Dr. Ciccone, MTMS Principal  
Dr. Kotcho, MTES Principal  
General Public – One.

**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
  1. Dr. Ciccone and Dr. Kotcho presentations
  2. Budget Information/presentation (Dr. Constantino/Mrs. Mosner - during committee report)
  3. Action item regarding mask policy/procedures in Return to School Plan 2021-2022

**VI. Board Secretary's Report**

- **Finance: School Bonds \$19,903,000**
  - ❖ Mendham Township Board of Education \$19,903,000 school bonds  
02/17/22 – Review/interview with S&P for district rating, currently we have an AA+ rating that was provided in 2011, still awaiting current rating
  - ❖ Budget review with Dr. Constantino

➤ **Maintenance of Facility: ESIP**

- ❖ Mendham ESIP Planning – 02/24/22 @ 11:00 collaborative meeting with the Mendham Township Environmental Commission to discuss possible energy savings projects – i.e. solar

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

**VIII. Correspondence – February 22, 2022 - Laurie Weinberg - Mask Mandate**

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

- Operations and Finance – Mr. Christmann delivered the report

**X. CONSENT ITEMS**

**Approval of Minutes**

Regular Session Minutes: January 18, 2022

**Curriculum and Instruction**

1. **Elementary School Field Trips - New** (*Attachment*)

**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
05/27/22	4th Grade	Camp Bernie	Parents transport to and from Camp Bernie. Busing provided for students if needed.	\$40.00	Diane Barlow Dawn Cullinan Kellie DeGise Hannah Dunlevy Nancy Hammer Lisa Lombardo Meredith Vazquez

2. **Middle School Fundraiser for the 2021 - 2022 School Year**

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

Date	Activity/Description	Staff
The month of February 2022	Period 9 “Service Group” - Food Drive: Cans 4 Cats - Cat food donations will be delivered to Vernon Animal Shelter	TBD

3. **Elementary School Fundraiser for the 2021 - 2022 School Year**

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

Date	Activity/Description	Staff
April 2022	St. Jude's Math-A-Thon - Improve math and comprehensive skills - Solve age-appropriate math problems - Understand the importance of helping others	Kevin O'Keefe

4. **Elementary School Participation in WMMHS "Shadowing Day"**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the Elementary School's participation in WMMHS Future Educator's "Shadowing Day" to be held on February 17, 2022.

**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 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 January 2022 Board Secretary's Reports.

3. **Treasurer's Report**

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

4. **February 2022 Transfer Reports**

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

5. **February 2022 Bills List**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the final February 2022 Bills List. This includes payroll checks N0354 through N0357 and N0358 through N0361.

Fund 10	\$ 53,875.74
Fund 11	\$ 1,862,826.82
Fund 20	\$ 26,682.22

Fund 60	\$ 23,213.15
Fund 95	\$ 520.00
Total:	<u>\$ 1,977,117.93</u>

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
Rutgers SEL Certification ( <i>Online</i> )	03/01/22 <i>through</i> 06/18/22	Lisa Lombardo	\$435.00	\$435.00

7. **Acceptance of SEL4NJ Grant Funds**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education accepts a mini-grant from the SEL4NJ for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$2,500 for social-emotional learning.

8. **Waiver of Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program 2022-2023** (*Attachment*)

**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 2022-2023 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 2022-2023 budget year, and

**WHEREAS**, the waiver request is based on the 2021-2022 Revenue report received from the NJ DOE, the free and reduced lunch count for special education students, and the 2021-2022 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 2022-2023 school year.

**Personnel and Human Resources**

1. **Leave Replacement - Jacqueline Medina, School Counselor** (*Attachment*)

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the appointment, pending completion of paperwork, of Jacqueline Medina as a Full-Time Leave Replacement School Counselor,

effective April 11, 2022, through November 11, 2022, at an annual salary of \$58,485.00 prorated, BA+45/MA, Step 1.

2. **Leave of Absence - John Ragusa**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education hereby approves John Ragusa, Elementary School Head Custodian, for an intermittent leave of absence (approximately 2 days per week), commencing February 14, 2022, while utilizing Vacation and Personal Days, under the Federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and NJ Family Leave Act (NJFLA) ending on June 30, 2022.

3. **Transportation Driver Trainees**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the following Transportation Driver Trainees, at an hourly rate of \$15.00 for the 2021-2022 school year.

Deborah Mercurio, Jennifer Minuche

4. **Amended Salary - Eugenia Mastrogiannakos**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the amended salary for Eugenia Mastrogiannakos from \$73,260.00, F, M/BA+45, Step 16 to \$76,710.00, F, MA+30, Step 16 effective March 1, 2022.

5. **Staff Resignation - Ashley Bays** (*Attachment*)

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education accepts the letter of resignation from Ashley Bays, Elementary School Special Education Teacher, dated February 7, 2022, effective April 8, 2022.

**Policy and Planning**

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

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

P 2415.05	Student Surveys, Analysis, Evaluations, Examinations, Testing, or Treatment (M) (Revised)
P & R 2431.4	Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries (M) (Revised)
P 2460.30	Additional/Compensatory Special Education and Related Services (M) (Revised)
P 2622	Student Assessment (M) (Revised)
R 2622	Student Assessment (M) (New)
P 3233	Political Activities (Revised)
P 5541	Anti-Hazing (M) (New)
P 7540	Joint Use of Facilities (Revised)
P & R 8465	Bias Crimes and Bias-Related Acts (M) (Revised)
P 9560	Administration of School Surveys (M) (Revised)

**Mr. Christmann moved to approve the Committee Reports and the Consent Items for February 22, 2022; Acceptance of Committee Reports as presented, Approval Regular Session Minutes, Curriculum & Instruction items 1-4, Operations & Finance items 1-8, Personnel & Human Resources items 1-5, Policy and Planning item 1, seconded by Dr. Mandel and the motion was**

**CARRIED in a roll call vote: Mr. Christmann; yes, Mr. Dubeck; yes, Mr. Keeling; yes, Dr. Mandel; yes, and Mrs. Mody; yes – motions carry.**

**XI. Verbal Communication from the Public**

Mr. Litkoff – Great schools, quality of education fantastic but I am concerned why the per pupil cost is so high for Mendham Township. We are in the top ten school for the united states. Why are we so high, and are we getting enough for what we pay for. Efficiency of education within this country is awful. I am not suggesting that we pay less, I just want to know why we are not the best?

Mr. Christmann – thank you for your comments and coming out tonight.

Mr. Shalit – how are we going to house all of the students based upon the increasing enrollment? Where are we going with the mask mandate?

Dr. Constantino – this is something that we are looking at currently, the district has housed many more students in the past. The mask mandate is on this agenda tonight.

Verbal communication was closed.

**XII. Discussion**

Mr. Christmann – I appreciate this resolution following Governor Murphy announcement. Does it include visitors?

Dr. Constantino – more guidance will be provided this Friday.

Mr. Christmann – visitors should have to keep their masks on when they come into the district.

Mr. Dubeck – will students' have to keep them on while on the bus? Also, I think mask should remain on until after spring break, many families travel and this is a good precaution.

Dr. Constantino – yes, students on the bus will have to continue to wear a mask. I have asked if there will be a requirement to test on return from break.

Mr. Dubeck – great theory, however logistically it is not realistic.

Mr. Christmann – can we partner with the department of health for testing.

Dr. Constantino – already working on a plan to test to return for all students and staff, possibly grant funding for this and we will provide the tests.

Dr. Mandel – everyone does have the option to continue to wear masks. They don't have to unmask.

### **XIII. ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Personnel and Human Resources**

##### **1. Substitute Teacher**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the following Substitute Teacher, pending completion of paperwork, at the current rate of \$125.00 per day for the 2021-2022 school year. Jillian Petrie, Elizabeth Vespucci

##### **2. Return to School Plan, 2021-2022**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to amend the "Return to School Plan 2021-2022", following the announcement by Governor Phil Murphy on February 7, 2022, to clearly state that face coverings will be optional for students and staff, beginning March 7, 2022.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to amend the "Return to School Plan 2021-2022" to include policies and procedures to align with the risks and unique needs of the school setting and student population to ensure safe learning environments.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education will continue to review guidance from the NJDOE and NJDOH, amending the "Return to School Plan 2021-2022" as conditions dictate.

**Mr. Christmann moved to approve action items as listed on the February 22, 2022, regular session agenda under Personnel and Human Resources seconded by Mr. Dubeck, and the motion was CARRIED in a roll call vote: Mr. Dubeck; yes, Mr. Keeling; yes, Dr. Mandel; yes, Mr. Christmann; yes, and Mrs. Mody, yes – motions carry.**

### **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 student 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 Dr. Mandel to move to Closed Executive Session. The Board adjourned to Closed Executive Session at 9:20 p.m.**

### **XV. Reconvene Open Regular Session Meeting**

Moved by Dr. Mandel, seconded by Mr. Dubeck to reconvene to the Regular Session Meeting at 9:30 p.m., unanimously carried in a voice vote.

### **Curriculum and School Programs**

#### **1. Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying Report**

**WHEREAS**, the Mendham Township Board of Education has received the Superintendent's report of the incident(s) of Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying ("HIB") within the District; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has had the opportunity to review the Superintendent's recommendations with respect to the incident(s) of HIB.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board carries to (*accept, reject, modify*) the Superintendent's recommendations for:

Incident #MTMS 43 (*accepts, rejects, modifies*)

**Mr. Christmann moved to approve to accept the above action item as listed on the February 22, 2022, regular session agenda under Curriculum and School Programs seconded by Mr. Keeling, and the motion was CARRIED in a roll call vote: Mr. Dubeck; yes, Mr. Keeling; yes, Dr. Mandel; yes, Mr. Christmann; yes, and Mrs. Mody, yes – motions carry.**

#### **XVI. Discussion**

Mr. Christmann – shocked by incidents we are starting to deal with. There is a concern as a district, never had these when my daughter went to school here. I encourage the BOE to double down on the student body and help to set them up for success in the future.

Mrs. Mody – I am not shocked, I hear frequently about this and it is very disappointing. The entire student body needs to be given support, it is a safety issue at some point.

Mr. Dubeck – Being new to the BOE, I am curious how often this happens?

Mrs. Mody – there are a large number of incidents not reported. The LGTBQ club at the MS, Dr. Ciccone only allows 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders to participate, by not allowing the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>-grade students, he is not providing everyone with support.

Dr. Constantino – I will ask him to respond, the club is very new.

Mrs. Mody – making exceptions to certain students. It is not hard to see how things like this are happening now. We should not limit who gets support.

Dr. Constantino – we need to provide support to all.

Dr. Mandel – he may not look at it that way.

Mr. Christmann – how do we evolve the thinking “when you do something, you do it to all of us”



Dr. Constantino – process with the change team, writing standards, beliefs, actions, policies. We always thought we were doing a great job until we brought Anet in and we realized we would do better.

Mr. Keeling – I read all of my sons books before he does, I truly commend the school for what they are doing – effective.

Dr. Constantino – many great things are going on, we need to reflect and look to see how we can progress.

**XVI. Adjournment**

Moved by Mrs. Mody second by Mr. Christmann to adjourn the regular meeting on February 22, 2022. The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Mosner  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary