

**MINUTES**  
**MOUNT ARLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**October 19, 2022**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

PRESENT: Edwin Botero  
Rachel Byrne, President  
Al Decena  
Melissa Eckert  
Al Roldan  
Sheila Studint, Vice President

ABSENT: Karl Svenningsen

ALSO PRESENT: Monica A. Rowland, Superintendent of Schools  
Steven E. McHugh, Sr., School Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Jeff Grillo, Principal  
Jennifer Ochoa, Supervisor of Special Services  
11 Other Individuals were present.

Board of Education President, Mrs. Rachel Byrne, called the in-person meeting to order at 7:01 P.M., declared a quorum present, and read the following notices:

The Mount Arlington Board of Education is meeting for action and discussion about business before the Board of Education today.

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the public's right to have advance notice of and to attend meetings of public bodies at which business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with this Act, the Board of Education has sent notice of today's meetings and copies of the Agenda to the:

Roxbury Register  
Daily Record  
Star Ledger  
Municipal Clerk  
Board of Education Members

Notice of today's meeting and copies of the Agenda have been posted on the Mount Arlington Public Schools Website: [www.mtarlingtonk8.org](http://www.mtarlingtonk8.org)

All Board of Education members present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

A motion was presented by Mr. Botero, and seconded by Mrs. Studint, to approve:

1. September 21, 2022 – Special Meeting Minutes
2. September 21, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes

***Voice Vote:***

***Yes: 6***

***No: 0***

***Abstain: 0***

***Absent: 1***

***Motion Passed***

PRESENTATIONS

1. Lisa Huber, Stephanie Guida and the Student Council Officers presented this year's Student Council goals and planned activities.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

1. None

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. None

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Dr. McHugh reviewed the motions before the Board of Education as shown on the agenda.

BUSINESS - ACTION ITEMS BY COMMITTEE - FINANCE:

A motion was presented by Mr. Roldan, and seconded by Mr. Decena, to approve Finance Agenda Items 101922-B-1 through 101922-B-17.

101922-B-1 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the check register of payments dated from September 22, 2022 through October 19, 2022 in the amount of \$1,517,368.42 as attached.

101922-B-2 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve payment of \$175.50 from the Unemployment account.

101922-B-3 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve payment of \$50.00 from the Student Activity account.

101922-B-4 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education to approve payment of \$377.90 from the Cafeteria account.

101922-B-5 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the list of line item transfers for the month of September 2022.

101922-B-6 RESOLVED, that the report of the Secretary and the related statement of cash balances for the month of September 2022 be approved by the Mount Arlington Board of Education and ordered filed, and further that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the certification of the Board Secretary for the month of September 2022 that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures which, in total, exceed the line appropriation of the adopted 2022-2023 budget, as revised, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:17-9 and further certifies that no major account or fund has been expended in violation of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-8 or N.J.S.A. 18A:19.

101922-B-7 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approves travel and costs as related in this resolution which are educationally necessary and fiscally prudent and are related to and within the scope of the employee's current responsibilities and promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district. The reimbursements listed in this resolution are in compliance with State travel reimbursement guidelines as established by the Department of the Treasury and Board of Education policy in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et. seq.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Seminar/Conference</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Est. Expense</b>	<b>Mileage Expense</b>
J. Asaro	Annual School Health Conference	10/19/22	\$225.00	\$35.72
D. Van Dongen	NJSMA Fall Workshop	10/10/22	\$195.00	\$7.52

101922-B-8 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the Tuition Contract Agreement with the Roxbury Board of Education, 42 N. Hillside Avenue, Succasunna, NJ. The Roxbury Public School District will provide educational services in accordance with the applicable New Jersey Statutes and the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education for Mt. Arlington students in grades 9 through 12. This agreement shall be in effect for the 2022-2023 school year.

The education services shall commence on September 1, 2022 and terminate on June 30, 2023. Total tuition charges for 141 pupils at \$18,403.00 each shall be \$2,594,823.00.

101922-B-9 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the Resource Room charges for 31 students at \$3,251.00 each shall be \$100,781.00.

101922-B-10 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the Following transportation route and cost for the 2022-2023 school year with Sussex County Regional Co-op plus 2% administrative fee.

Route	Route Number	Cost
Sussex Technology	R-33	\$2,126.70
Hunterdon Prep	\$Q-060	\$31,236.00

101922-B-11 RESOLVED that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the following special education tuition contract for the school year 2022-2023 as follows:

Student ID	Attending	Date	# of Days	Tuition	Aide Support	Other
100722	The Hunterdon Preparatory School	9/1/22-6/30/23	180	\$59,247.00	N/A	N/A

101922-B-12 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the following Joint Transportation Agreement between Roxbury Board of Education and Mt. Arlington Board of Education for the 2022-2023 school year, in the amount of plus 4% administrative fee.

Route	Route Number	Cost
Eisenhower Middle School	EMS05	\$9,900.00

101922-B-13 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education enter into an agreement with Educational Services Commission of Morris County to provide a Health & Environmental Safety Services Program for the 2022-2023 school year, at a cost of \$4,375.00.

101922-B-14 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve that all district employees who become eligible for medical benefits are to be offered participation in the New Jersey Educators Health Plan and the New Jersey Garden State Plan, the district's base plan as of January 1, 2021.

\*prior to July 1, 2020 employees are eligible for NJEHP, Direct 10, & Direct 15 Plans.

101922-B-15 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approves the substitute aide hourly rate of pay of \$16.00 effective September 1, 2022.

101922-B-16 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve a Shared Services Agreement with Roxbury Board of Education for maintenance to be used on a as needed basis.

101922-B-17 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education accepts the donation of \$500.00 from The Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club to be used towards field trips.

***Roll Call:***

<i>Mr. Botero</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Decena</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Eckert</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Roldan</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Studint</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Svenningsen</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Mrs. Byrne</i>	<i>Yes</i>

***Motion Passes***

**PERSONNEL:**

A motion was presented by Mrs. Studint, and seconded by Mr. Decena, to approve Personnel Agenda Items 101922-S-1 and 101922-S-3.

101922-S-1 RESOLVED to approve the following personnel to teach the Lakers Educational Assistance Program (LEAP - Homework Club) according to the per hour rate (\$44.04) listed on Schedule B (22-23) of the approved 2021-2024 Mount Arlington Education Association Contract. Total teaching time not to exceed 3 sessions per week at one hour per session effective October 2022 through May 2023. This activity is Funded by the ESSER III Grant.

Marlen Tomosieski	Melissa Miranda	Danielle Brinkofski
Kaitlyn Cascio	Laura Westervelt	Christina Buckley
Heleine Gonzalez	Diane Van Dongen	Kara Kelly
Jennifer Tonic	Megan Hahn	Samantha Lapszynski
Jill Bacinsky	Cortney Polania	Chris Merker
Christine Spicuzzo	Tanya Occhuizzo	

101922-S-2 RESOLVED to approve Danielle Dachowski as Assistant Boys Basketball Coach for the 2022-2023 school year with stipend being paid according to the rates listed on Schedule B (22-23) of the approved 2021-2024 Mount Arlington Education Association Contract.

101922-S-3 RESOLVED to approve maternity leave for employee number 62497342 effective February 3, 2023-June 30, 2023.

**Roll Call:**

<i>Mr. Botero</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Decena</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Eckert</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Roldan</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Studint</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Svenningsen</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Mrs. Byrne</i>	<i>Yes</i>

**Motion Passes**

**CURRICULUM/POLICY**

A motion was presented by Mrs. Eckert, and seconded by Mr. Botero, to approve Curriculum Agenda Items 101922-S-4 through 101922-S-7.

101922-S-4 RESOLVED to approve the electronic submission of the 2021-2022 School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the *Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act* (Self-Assessment) to the NJDOE.

101922-S-5 RESOLVED, to approve the following Parent/Teacher Conference days/evenings for the 2022-2023 school year (Note: These days are all early dismissal for students):

- Monday, November 14th - Day Conferences
- Tuesday, November 15th - Evening Conferences - Early Dismissal for Staff
- Wednesday, November 16th - Day Conferences
- Thursday, November 17th - Evening Conferences - Early Dismissal for Staff

101922-S-6 RESOLVED to approve the following field trips/fundraisers for the 2022-2023 school year:

- Grades 3-8 G&T Virtual Competition - Cardboard Engineering Challenge Competition, conducted by the NJ Consortium of Gifted and Talented Programs. The Competition begins October 3, 2022 and runs until October 31, 2022 (at a minimal cost to the board of education).
- Grades 3-5 G&T Field Trip - Math Marathon Workshop, conducted by the NJ Consortium of Gifted and Talented Programs. The workshop will take place on October 27, 2022 (snow date October 28, 2022) at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship in Morristown, NJ (at a minimal cost to the board of education).
- Grades 3-8 G&T Virtual Competition - Chess Competition, conducted by the NJ Consortium of Gifted and Talented Programs. Competitors may choose to participate on November 1, 2022, January 10, 2023, and/or March 7, 2023 (at a minimal cost to the board of education).
- Grades 2-3 G&T Field Trip - STEM/STEAM Adventures, conducted by the NJ Consortium of Gifted and Talented Programs. The workshop takes place on Thursday, December 1, 2022 (snow date Tuesday, December 6, 2022) at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship in Morristown, NJ (at a minimal cost to the board of education).
- Grades 1-8 G&T Virtual Competition - Character SEL Engineering Challenge, conducted by the NJ Consortium of Gifted and Talented Programs. The competition begins December 12, 2022 and runs through February 15, 2023 (at minimal cost to the board of education).
- Grades 7-8 G&T Field Trip - Jr. Model UN, conducted by the NJ Consortium of Gifted and Talented Programs. The Junior Model UN will be held either on Friday, January 27, 2023, or on Friday, February 3, 2023 at Drew University in Madison, NJ (at a minimal cost to the board of education).
- Grades 1-8 G&T Virtual Competition - Poster Contest, conducted by the NJ Consortium of Gifted and Talented Programs. The Poster Competition begins February 20, 2023 and runs until March 24, 2023 (at a minimal cost to the board of education).

- Grades 6-8 G&T Field Trip - Workshop on the Arts, conducted by the NJ Consortium of Gifted and Talented Programs. The two-day Workshop on the Arts takes place on Monday, March 13, 2023 and Tuesday, March 14, 2023 (snow dates March 20, 2023 and March 21, 2023) at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship in Morristown, NJ (at a minimal cost to the board of education).
- Grades 3-5 G&T Field Trip - Learning Carnival, conducted by the NJ Consortium of Gifted and Talented Programs. The workshop takes place on Thursday, March 23, 2023 (snow date March 24, 2023) at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship in Morristown, NJ (at a minimal cost to the board of education).
- Grades 5-8 G&T Virtual Competition - STEAM Machines Competition, conducted by the NJ Consortium of Gifted and Talented Programs. The competition begins March 27, 2023 and runs until April 28, 2023 (at a minimal cost to the board of education).
- Grades 1-2 G&T Virtual Competition - Spring Scavenger Hunt Competition, conducted by the NJ Consortium of Gifted and Talented Programs. The Competition begins April 10, 2023 and runs until May 15, 2023 (at a minimal cost to the board of education).
- Grades 5-8 G&T Competition - Living Voices Presentations, conducted by the NJ Consortium of Gifted and Talented Programs. The competition takes place on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship in Morristown, NJ (at a minimal cost to the board of education).
- Grades 5-8 G&T Competition - Debate Competition, conducted by the NJ Consortium of Gifted and Talented Programs. The competition takes place on Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at the St. Elizabeth University in Convent Station, NJ (at a minimal cost to the board of education).
- Student Council “Movie Night” Fundraiser in December 2022 (date TBD) to be held in the Mount Arlington School Gymnasium for grades 5-8.
- Pre-K trip to Tag A Longs Play Place in Lake Hopatcong on November 4, 2022 at a minimal cost to the board of education.



1021922-S-7 RESOLVED to add the following field trip/fundraiser to motion 101922-S-6 approving field trips and fundraisers for the 22-23 school year:

- 8th Grade Hershey Park/Gettysburg trip on June 7-9, 2023 at a minimal cost to the Board of Education.
- 8th Grade Fundraiser at Fuddruckers in Roxbury from November 17-20, 2022.

✚ Fire/Emergency Drills (conducted with the Mount Arlington Police Department) for the Months of October 2022 were as follows:

- MAPS and Decker Fire Drills
- MAPS and Decker Lock Down Drills (conducted with the Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning/NJDOE)
- MAPS & Decker Bus Evacuation Drills (with Roxbury Transportation)

✚ Staff Attendance for September 2022 was 96.7%

✚ Student Attendance for September 2022:

- Decker 92.7%
- MAPS 97.1%

**Roll Call:**

<i>Mr. Botero</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Decena</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Eckert</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Roldan</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Studint</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Svenningsen</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Mrs. Byrne</i>	<i>Yes</i>

**Motion Passes**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- A. Finance:
  - Mr. Roldan reviewed current topics as listed in the Agenda.
- B. Personnel:
  - Superintendent Rowland current topics as listed in the Agenda.
- C. Building and Grounds:
  - Mr. Roldan reviewed current topics as listed in the Agenda.
- D. Curriculum and Policy:
  - Mrs. Eckert reviewed current topics as listed in the Agenda.
- E. Negotiations:
  - No Report

F. Town Council:

- Mrs. Eckert reviewed the following topics:
  - Flu Shots at Borough Hall on 10/27 from 9:30 to 11:30
  - Haunted House Contest & Halloween Event 10/22 from 4 to 6 PM

G. Parent Teachers Organization:

- Mrs. Eckert reviewed the following topics:
  - Spirit Store is Open until 10/20
  - Thanksgiving Basket Donations Due by 11/1/2022
  - Fall Dance 10/28 6:30 to 8:00 PM

OTHER REPORTS:

1. Delegate to Roxbury BOE:
  - Mr. Botero reviewed the following topics:
    - Next Meeting 11/14/22
2. Delegate to NJ School Board Association:
  - No Report
3. Delegate to Morris County School Board Association:
  - No Report
4. Delegate to Educational Service Commission of Morris County:
  - No Report

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Board support of PTO Activities
2. A motion was presented by Mr. Roldan, and seconded by Mr. Decena, to approve the following Board of Education Goals for 2022-2023:
  1. Continue to improve Board communications by sharing committee notes timely and in a shared location for all members to reference
  2. Develop a Recruitment Plan & Strategy for identifying new Board Members or general interest in serving on the Board of Education in the future
  3. Increase Board Member visibility during school functions or community events to improve Board - Parent - Community relations

***Roll Call:***

<i>Mr. Botero</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Decena</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Eckert</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Roldan</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Studint</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Svenningsen</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Mrs. Byrne</i>	<i>Yes</i>

***Motion Passes***

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Superintendent Rowland reviewed the following topics:
  - District Security Audit
  - Thanksgiving Baskets
  - Superintendent/Parent Meetings
  - November 30<sup>th</sup> Ice Safety Course

PUBLIC COMMENT ON OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. Jackie Matthews asked if the school district can offer a Boat Safety course in conjunction with Mount Arlington Borough as in the past.
2. Board Member Mrs. Eckert, who serves as a liaison with the Borough, will bring the topic to the next Borough meeting.

CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was presented by Mr. Botero, and seconded by Mrs. Eckert, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education move to Closed Session at 7:59 PM, to a Legal matter. No action is expected to follow.

***Voice Vote:***

***Yes: 6***

***No: 0***

***Abstain: 0***

***Absent: 1***

***Motion Passes***

WHEREAS, the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act (N.J.S.A.10:4-1 et seq.) expressly provide that a public body may move into Closed Session and exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which the public body discusses any of the nine areas set forth in N.J.S.A.10:4-12b; and

WHEREAS, the Mount Arlington Board of Education has determined it necessary to move to Closed Session to discuss personnel and legal matters, which are included in the aforesaid exceptions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mount Arlington Board of Education that it does hereby move into Closed Session pursuant to N.J.S.A.10:4-12b to discuss the aforesaid matters with no related action to follow, and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the aforesaid discussions shall be made public either at the Public Meeting following said Closed Session or at such time as any litigated or personnel matters are concluded; or upon conclusion of any negotiations or related discussions; or as otherwise specified; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect pursuant to law.

A motion was presented by Mrs. Studint, and seconded by Mrs. Eckert, that the meeting return to Open Session at 8:17 PM.

***Voice Vote:***

***Yes: 6***

***No: 0***

***Abstain: 0***

***Absent: 1***

***Motion Passes***

**ADJOURN**

A motion was presented by Mr. Roldan and seconded by Mr. Decena that the Regular meeting be adjourned. The motion was unanimously carried at 8:18 PM.

***Voice Vote:***

***Yes: 6***

***No: 0***

***Abstain: 0***

***Absent: 1***

***Motion Passes***

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven E. McHugh, Sr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Steven E. McHugh, Sr  
School Business Administrator/Board of Education Secretary  
***Approved: November 16, 2022***