

THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

N.J. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS 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 meeting of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act the Woodland Park Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted on the door of the Woodland Park Board of Education Administration Building and was provided to the North Jersey Record & Herald News

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

Members Present– Kim Galbraith, Shannon Marren, Julissa Rodriguez, Gina McQuin, MaryAnn Perro, Mark Salemi Joe Giammarella

Members Absent – David Amanullah, Glen Grimes

Also Present - Michele Pillari, Dwayne Ortiz, Aron Mandel

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

The Open Public Meeting Act, authorizes a public body to meet in Executive or Private Session under limited circumstances and WHEREAS said law requires the Board to adopt a resolution at a public meeting before it can meet in such Executive or Private Session. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF WOODLAND PARK THAT:

- 1) It does hereby determine that it is necessary to meet in Executive Session to discuss a personnel and/or litigation matter or contract matter.
- 2) The matter(s) discussed will be made public when confidentiality is no longer required.
- 3) Meeting will be resumed at conclusion of Executive Session.
- 4) The board does/does not expect to take action after Executive Session.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 7:07 p.m. by MARREN, seconded by GALBRAITH
Voice Vote: 7 YES

Motion to return to Regular Session at 7:25 p.m. by GALBRAITH, seconded by SALEMI
Voice Vote: 7 YES

PUBLIC HEARING-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Please remember that this is a public meeting. Anything you say will be public record. As a result, pursuant to law, the Board Members cannot respond to you publicly concerning certain matters, such as those regarding an individual student. If there is a matter that you wish to remain private concerning personnel or students, please contact the Superintendent's office. In accordance with Bylaw 0167, statements will be limited to 3 minutes in duration.

No one wished to be heard.

225-86 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by PERRO Seconded by MCQUIN

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2024 regular and the August 26, 2024 special meetings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the August 5, 2024 regular and the August 26, 2024 special meetings.

Roll Call: 6 YES, 1 ABSTENTION-MARREN

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Preschool Program:

The first Paws Press has gone out to families which contains information about the curriculum and SEL for the month of September. As always please note that Paws Press is provided in English, Spanish, and Arabic. This one pager will provide information about the preschool curriculum, studies, monthly information, events, and special notes from school support staff and leaders.

Pre-K 3

The beginning of the school year is an exciting time! During the first several weeks of school the teachers will be supporting children as they say goodbye to their families, and become familiar with the classroom and school routines. Whether children are new to preschool or not, expect that many will experience strong emotions - fear, anxiety, extreme excitement, sadness or frustration. Parents are encouraged to talk with their children about their feelings.

Pre-K 4

The PreK 4 classes will be learning about our school community and the names of the people who they see everyday. This is a great time to help the children at home with their self help skills such as putting on and taking off their jackets and dressing themselves. They also need to practice cleaning up after themselves.

Start with Hello Week

Please read letter [from our Preschool Social Worker](#)

The Start with Hello is a program that teaches children and teens how to be more socially inclusive and connect to each other. Start with Hello Week embodies acceptance, inclusion, friendship, and acts of kindness.

Wear Green Wednesday

Goal: The importance of being in this together.

Trusted Adult Thursday

Goal: The importance of having an adult to trust and talk to

Moving forward FriYAY:

Goal: To commit to move forward using all that students have learned this week

Back to School Night:

School #1 & ECC 9/19

Charles Olbon 9/24

6:30 p.m.- 9 p.m.

CO:

Smooth opening of school. Kindergarten Ice cream Social was a success- Thank you to the Town Council

Students participating in "Start with Hello week" activities 9/16-9/20

Back to School Night 9/24 - 6:30-9:00

BG:

Smooth opening of school

"Start with Hello week" activities 9/16-9/20

Back to School Night 9/17 - 6:30-9:00

Memorial Middle School:

We are proud of our Mustangs who started the year learning about our reset to committing to the Six Pillars of Character and learning our new Mustangs Pledge during our grade level Welcome Meetings with the Principal, Dean, Students and Teachers.

Dates for Mem:

HSA Meeting: 9/19

House Sorting Ceremony: 9/20 in school

Back to School Night 9/25 6:30 pm

Steered Straight Parent Assembly 10/3 6:30 pm

Thank you to the Municipal Alliance for funding and recommending the Steered Straight program. On 10/3 faculty will participate in professional training after school and a parent assembly is offered that evening. On 10/4 there will be a student assembly for students in grades 5-8. The Steered Straight program's mission is to steer youth toward making

sound, rational decisions through learning experiences that provide a message of reality to help them make positive, informative decisions regarding substance use and more.

Students are completing diagnostic beginning of the year assessments which will provide data to differentiate and individualize instruction during the WIN period and general class time instruction.

This week Memorial, like all district schools, is participating in Start with Hello Week! We also recently participated in the Nurtured Heart activity (Steppin' into Greatness) along with other WP Schools.

K-8 Mathematics

K-8 has received the updated i-Ready Curriculum.

Kindergarten and 1st grade will be infusing even more centers based mathematical activities in their classrooms through the centers library. Grades 2-8 teachers received Discourse cards that provide question starters to spark mathematical conversations with students. Another wonderful addition is the Stem stories that build a stronger correlation between math, reading, and science.

Students in Grades 1-8 have begun the i-Ready Diagnostic. This adaptive assessment adjusts its questions to suit your child's instructional priorities. Each item a student sees is individualized based on their needs. Following the completion of the diagnostic, students will be provided their own MyPath that provides your child with lessons based on their individual skill level and opportunities for improvement, so your child can learn at a pace that is just right for them.

MTSS: Data Teams and SEL/Behavior Data teams will be meeting with our Magnolia consultant October 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. The I&RS process has been refined for the new school year and will succeed the district data team's review of most recent testing scores.

ELA: Many of our technology based supplemental resources for ELA have not been renewed this year to support our initiative of "getting back to basics". This year we will see books in hands, writing with pencils and paper and collaborative learning partnerships and groups. The DIBELS testing window opens this week. Students in grade K-8 will be screened using DIBELS Universal Screener. The DIBELS progress monitoring tool will be used to measure student needs and successes throughout the year. CO will be using Geodes to support fluency, vocabulary and comprehension development during shared reading. Second grade will be introducing cursive handwriting. BG received Jump Rope Readers these decodable books will be utilized during small group instruction. Third grade will be teaching cursive handwriting. Memorial is working on reorganizing classroom leveled libraries for students to use during independent, partner and book clubs.

Special Services:

The first Community Based Instruction trip has been planned and will be taking place in October. All of the students in our Growing Minds program at Memorial School will be participating.

The new Life Skills room is up and running at Memorial School.

This week the Counseling Department is rolling out Start With Hello Week. *Start with Hello* was created by Sandy Hook Promise to address the need for students to feel connected to others.

Curriculum Office:

- New Teacher training was successful; new teachers were provided overviews of District policies and procedures, training on current platforms, classroom management, SEL and growth mindset.
- All staff were provided training on Opening Days in Atlas, annotated schedules, specific curriculum training with resource vendors, HIB, Equity and Affirmative Action, Curriculum Unit reviews, LinkIt new dashboard training and time for classroom set up.
- Interventionists are working to provide support to our students in need. They will be analyzing the data from our September assessments
- ML teachers are assessing our newcomers as well as providing support to our returning students

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The following items have been deemed to be non-controversial in a matter of routine business and will be voted on by one motion.

Motion by PERRO Seconded by RODRIGUEZ to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following consent agenda numbers 225-87 through 225-89.

Roll Call: 7 YES

225-87 - SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORTS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, receives and accepts the attached reports of the Secretary and Treasurer for the month of July 2024 "Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6: 20-2.12©, we certify that as of July 31, 2024 the Board Secretary's monthly financial reports (appropriations section) did not reflect any over expenditure in any of the major accounts or funds, and based on the appropriation balances reflected on this report and the advice of district officials, we have no reason to doubt that the district has sufficient funds available to meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year"

225-88 - TRANSFERS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the attached list of transfers for the month of July 2024.

225-89 - APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the attached list of bills in the amount of \$1,366,985.07, approved by finance committee chairperson, MaryAnn Perro.

<u>Bill List No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
#62	\$970,828.66
#L62	\$ 3,679.25
#Payroll-August	\$392,477.16

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

The following items will be voted on by separate motion for each item.

PERSONNEL:

The following personnel items have been deemed to be non-controversial in a matter of routine business and will be voted on by one motion. Any item deemed controversial can be removed and voted on as a separate agenda item.

Motion by PERRO Seconded by GALBRAITH to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following personnel agenda numbers 225-90 through 225-104.

Roll Call: 7 YES

225-90 - APPROVAL TO RESCIND APPOINTMENT –MATERNITY LEAVE REPLACEMENT- D. KOTOB

BE IS RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to rescind the appointment of Dyana Kotob, previously approved at the 8/26/24 meeting.

225-91 - ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION – C. FEGO

BE IS RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of Cathy Fego, lunch aide, effective 9/3/2024.

225-92 - ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION – L. HORN

BE IS RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of Laurie Horn, lunch aide, effective 9/3/2024.

225-93 - ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION – C. MONGELLI

BE IS RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of Catrina Mongelli, pt aide, effective 9/3/2024.

225-94 - APPROVAL OF UNPAID LEAVE OF ABSENCE- A. AFANEH

BE IS RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve unpaid leave of absence for Areej Afaneh, from September 1, 2024-October 1, 2024. Expected return to work, October 2, 2024.

225-95 - APPROVAL OF PATERNITY LEAVE – G. POMANTE

BE IS RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve paternity leave for Gaetano Pomante, under the NJ Family Leave Act, effective January 20, 2025 – April 11, 2025. Expected return to work April 14, 2025.

225-96-APPOINTMENT OF HIRE – R. ROMERO

BE IS RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Ricardo Romero, as an ELA teacher at Memorial, MA, Step 1, \$67,010, as per current WPEA agreement, pending receipt of proper paperwork.

225-97 - APPOINTMENT OF HIRE – PT AIDE – I. VARGAS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Ivette Vargas, as a part time aide, for the 2024-2025 school year, at a rate of \$26.85, not to exceed 28.5 hours per week, as per current WPEA agreement, pending receipt of proper paperwork.

225-98- APPOINTMENT OF HIRE – LUNCH AIDE – W. PHILIPS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Wanda Philips, as a lunch aide, not to exceed 10 hrs. per week, at a rate of \$19.33/hr., effective 9/17/2024.

225-99- APPOINTMENT OF HIRE – LUNCH AIDE – M. BENJELLOUN

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Majdouline Benjelloun, as a lunch aide, not to exceed 12.5 hrs. per week, at a rate of \$19.33/hr., effective 9/17/2024.

225-100 -APPOINTMENT OF HIRE – SUBSTITUTE TEACHER- L. JARRAD

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Lina Jarrad, as a substitute teacher at BG, at a rate of \$150 per diem, effective 9/17/2024.

225-101 - RATIFY APPROVAL OF STAFF CLASS CHANGE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to ratify approval of staff class change for Dounia Omran, from MA, Step 3, \$68,010 to MA+30, Step 3, \$72,560, retroactive to September 1, 2024.

225-102 -APPROVAL OF STAFF STIPENDS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve stipend payments for the 2024-2025 school year in accordance with current WPEA contract, as listed:

Title	School	Name	Amount
Art Show	CO	Sherry Toole	\$500
Breakfast Duty	BG	Yommna Mohamed	\$1,000

225-103 - APPROVAL OF STIPEND POSITION

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve stipend position for one of the following nurses to accompany student ID#33289 on the bus to and from school, at a rate of \$47/hr., not to exceed 1 hour per day, retroactive to 9/5/24-the end of the school year; Terri Carbonelli, Barbara Wells, Linda Saundry, Sadie Link, Lynn Roerich or Tara Pearce.

225-104 - WORKSHOP/TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT APPROVAL

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve/ratify approval the attendance of and costs of attendance including registration fees and statutorily authorized travel expenditures for the following listed district employees for the 2024-2025 school year.

Name	Activity	Date	Fee	Travel/Hotel	Total
Dwayne Ortiz	OPRA/Negotiations/Arbitration/Fact Finding & Records Retention	9/12/2024	\$195	NA	\$195
Meghan McGinnis	Passaic County G&T Back to School Mtg.	9/20/2024 (½ day pm)	NA	NA	NA
Stephen Scholtz	Legal One: Hot Issues In School Law	10/18/2024	\$125	NA	\$125

EDUCATION:**225-105 - APPROVAL OF DISTRICT MENTORING PLAN – 2024-2025**

Motion by PERRO Seconded by RODRIGUEZ

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve submission to the NJDOE of the 2024-2025 District Mentoring Plan, as attached.

Roll Call: 7 YES

225-106 - APPROVAL OF DISTRICT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – 2024-2025

Motion by PERRO Seconded by RODRIGUEZ

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve submission to the NJDOE of the 2024-2025 District Professional Development Plan, as attached.

Roll Call: 7 YES

225-107- APPROVAL OF THE 2024-2025 DISTRICT ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

Motion by RODRIGUEZ Seconded by MARREN

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the District Assessment Schedule for the 2024-2025 school year, as attached.

Roll Call: 7 YES

225-108 - APPROVAL OF 2024-2025 DISTRICT & BOARD GOALS

Motion by RODRIGUEZ Seconded by SALEMI

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the District and Board Goals for the 2024-2025 school year, as attached.

Roll Call: 7 YES

FINANCE:**225-109 - APPROVAL OF CONTRACT – PHOENIX CENTER**

Motion by MARREN Seconded by RODRIGUEZ

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve contract with Phoenix Center, to provide related services for student ID#34711, at a rate of \$98.50/hr., not to exceed 3 hours per week, for the 2024-2025 school year.

Roll Call: 7 YES

POLICY:**225-110 - APPROVAL OF DISTRICT THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAM FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR**

Motion by MCQUIN Seconded by MARREN

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the following district personnel assigned to the District Threat Assessment Team for the 2024-2025 school year:

Thomas Bolen	Supervisor of Facilities & Security
Donna Farraye	District Guidance Counselor
Giovanna Irizarry	Director of Special Education and Student Services
Samantha Krasnomowitz	ELA Supervisor
Maria Lopata	District Social Worker

Jaimie Partridge
Titus Ridgway
Lynn Roehrich
Aimee Soto
Kathryn Williams
Roll Call: 7 YES

District Behaviorist
District Social Worker
School Nurse
School Psychologist
School Counselor

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Ms. Marren stated the committee met on 8/28, prior to the board meeting. They discussed making Sweets with the Superintendent to focus on one school at each meeting. They also discussed having representatives from the schools come to the regular meetings to showcase different events, activities, etc.

FINANCE: Mrs. Perro stated the committee met prior to the meeting to go over budget adjustments, forecast for the future budget and projects in the district they would like to tackle.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: Dr. Salemi stated the committee also met prior to the meeting and when over all projects that were needed in the district, prioritized them and discussed different avenues at how to address them financially.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Marren stated that Dr. Pillari invited her to observe Memorial School during the new lunch schedules. She stated everything flowed with the students having lunch then going to the WIN program, as opposed to recess, which has been removed this year. Right now the WIN program is assessing the students as to their need for academic support. Having the shorter lunch period will also extend gym periods. She said she talked to a few students and they were looking forward to the WIN period.

PUBLIC HEARING

Please remember that this is a public meeting. Anything you say will be public record. As a result, pursuant to law, the Board Members cannot respond to you publicly concerning certain matters, such as those regarding an individual student. If there is a matter that you wish to remain private concerning personnel or students, please contact the Superintendent's office. In accordance with Bylaw 0167, statements will be limited to 3 minutes in duration.

No one wished to be heard.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:46 p.m. by PERRO, Seconded by GALBRAITH
Voice Vote: 7 YES

WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION **EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES**

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- The Board minutes were provided by the attorney as the Business Administrator was excused from the executive session. The Board discussed the Superintendent's contract. There were no other executive items.