THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

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

Present: David Amanullah, Shannon Marren, Julissa Rodriguez, Gina McQuin, Mark Salemi, Glen Grimes

Absent: Kim Galbraith, Andrew Mingione

Also Present: Michele Pillari, Aleksandar Kondovski, Adam Weiss

The Board held a moment of silence in honor of Dr. Joseph Giammarella.

PRESENTATIONS:

• Recognition of the Mustang Ambassador Program participants.

Dean Douglas made a presentation explaining the Mustang Ambassadors program. All students involved were recognized for their papticipation.

• Presentation from WTI Tremco Roofing regarding roof replacement at Memorial & Charles Olbon.

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.

226-98 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by <u>MARREN</u> Seconded by <u>RODRIGUEZ</u>

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2025 workshop and the August 11, 2025 regular meetings.

Roll Call: 6 YES

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Oct. 6 - 7:00pm - Memorial - Workshop Meeting

Oct. 16 - 7:00pm - Municipal Building - Meeting Change from Oct. 20

Nov. 5 - 7:00pm - Memorial School - Seat Candidate

Nov. 17 - 7:00pm - Municipal Building

Dec. 15 - 6:00pm - Municipal Building - Holiday Celebration thereafter

Please join me in congratulating Dean Douglas on successfully defending his Doctoral Dissertation on Saturday!

The Dissertation entitled *The Influence of Emotional Intelligence on the Academic Engagement of Undergraduate Learners: A Qualitative Descriptive Study* examined how emotional intelligence influences the academic engagement of undergraduate learners in higher education. Guided by Goleman's (1995) framework of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and relationship management, the research employed a qualitative descriptive design using semi-structured interviews and focus groups. Through Saldaña's four-step thematic analysis, findings revealed that students who demonstrated emotional regulation and social awareness remained more engaged, while unresolved emotional

challenges often led to disengagement. The study contributes to scholarship by highlighting the role of emotional intelligence in shaping student persistence, belonging, and success, while offering practical recommendations for higher education leaders to integrate emotional intelligence development into student support and academic programming.

Dr. Irizarry and I had the distinct honor to listen in as our colleague presented with eloquence, distinction, and confidence. As we all know, the process of earning a doctoral degree is an arduous journey, trying at times and absolutely not easy. Words cannot express just how proud we are that another member of our WP Family has reached the pinnacle of his educational career. Congratulations again Dr. Douglas and we look forward to seeing your prestigious work continue to transfer to our students, families and colleagues.

Preschool:

Curriculum: Beginning of the School Year Study & Social Emotional Support

The beginning of the school year is an exciting time! During the first several weeks, teachers will support children as they say goodbye to their families and become familiar with classroom and school routines. Whether children are new to preschool or returning, many may experience strong emotions such as fear, anxiety, excitement, sadness, or frustration. You can support social-emotional learning by encouraging children to talk about their feelings and reassuring them that you will always come back to pick them up. These early experiences help children feel safe, build trust, and develop the confidence to explore their new environment.

Lunch & Learn: Introduction to Creative Curriculum

The first Lunch & Learn is scheduled for Wednesday, September 17, where our instructional coach, Ms. Leary, will be sharing an introduction to the Creative Curriculum with families. During this session, you will become familiar with the curriculum, the classroom environment, and the activities and learning that take place in a preschool setting, all of which influence the Creative Curriculum.

If you are unable to attend this session, no worries! We will host a Lunch & Learn every month, so please keep an eye out for future invitations. We will also be sharing the PowerPoint slides after the session so that you can review the information at your convenience.

Charles Olbon

CO Chipmunks had a great opening to the new school year!

All 1st and 2nd grade students are taking the Math and ELA diagnostic assessment. The information gathered from these assessments will assist with ensuring students are provided with specific instruction in areas of need during the What I Need(WIN) period. Our Positive Behavior Instructional Supports System(PBIS) is in full roll out. Our focus started with Lunch and Recess. We will continue to have staff members distribute Chip Change for being a leader, worker and friend.

Start With Hello Week - Our Guidance Counselor, Ms. Williams, created activities for the classes to promote social engagement, kindness, and inclusion. Both staff and students wore green on Sept. 17 to honor this day.

CO Back To School Night is September 23rd 6:30pm-9:00pm.

RG

PBIS Roll-out: Ms. Byrnes, Guidance Counselor, and Ms. Weber, Social Worker, explained expectations to students during grade level meetings. Signs are visible on the All-Purpose Room walls and staff members reinforce positive behavior with Buddy Bucks.

Start with Hello Week: Our Wellness Team created activities for all classrooms that encourage connection and inclusion to help prevent social isolation.

Back to School Night: BG's Back to School Night was held on Tuesday, September 16th. It was a great success where parents were able to meet with their child's teachers and talk a walk through their school day.

Memorial Middle School

Successful Opening: Memorial Middle School began the year with a smooth and positive opening, as students and staff quickly settled into routines and launched the year with enthusiasm.

Sorting Ceremony: Our annual Sorting Ceremony welcomed new 6th graders into their Houses, helping them build camaraderie, school spirit, and a sense of belonging in our community.

Start With Hello Week: Throughout Start With Hello Week, students participated in activities designed to promote social engagement, kindness, and inclusion so that no one feels isolated.

Wear Green Event: On Wednesday, students and staff wore green to demonstrate support and solidarity for Start With Hello Week, reinforcing the message of connection and belonging.

Curriculum Office:

NJSLA-Adaptive Fall Field Test October 27-Nov 14

The school year is off to a tremendous start after motivating, educational and productive professional development time on September 2nd and 3rd. Mentors have been assigned and are supporting their mentees. Curriculum Office staff, as well as all administrators, are supporting the needs of our new teachers and teachers new to the district. Support is also being provided to all teachers utilizing new resources through participation in Professional Learning Communities, classroom visits and planning meetings. All ML teachers are working with their continuing students and their classroom teachers, as well as assessing students who may qualify for service. All Interventionists have been working to identify students in need of additional support in ELA and/or math. Schedules are being finalized and service to students has begun. Interventionists are a part of our multi-tiered system of support. Preparation for the NJSLA-Adaptive Fall Field test is underway.

Department of Special Education and Student Support Services

The District-Wide PBIS team rolled out the implementation of PBIS in each school starting with the norms for the cafeteria. Each week, we will focus on the individual norms for each designated area of the school environment; Hallways, Cafeteria, Bathrooms, Recess, Classrooms, Arrival/Dismissal. All special education teachers were provided support with the ICR program model as well as instructional resources for students with special needs. The Community Based Instruction project with Rutgers The Boggs Center will begin next Friday with our Growing Minds team at Memorial Middle School. We are the only middle school in the county that was chosen to participate in the project. The Child Study Team members are continuing this year to participate in professional development provided by the NJDOE Office of Special Education, focused on IEP development, Inclusive Programming, and LRE (least restrictive environment).

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 by RODRIGUEZ Seconded by MARREN to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following consent agenda numbers 226-99 through 226-103.

Roll Call: 6 YES

226-99 - 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 \$901,720.39, approved by finance committee chairperson.

\$887,237.89
10,468.03
4,014.47

226-100-APPROVAL OF DISTRICT THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAM FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

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 2025-2026 school year:

Thomas Bolen Supervisor of Facilities & Security

Donna Farraye School Counselor

Giovanna Irizarry Director of Special Education and Student Services

Samantha Krasnomowitz **ELA Supervisor** Maria Lopata District Social Worker Jaimie Partridge District Behaviorist Jordan Harkins Preschool Social Worker

Lynn Roehrich School Nurse Aimee Soto School Psychologist Kathryn Williams **School Counselor**

226-101-APPROVAL OF DISTRICT MENTORING PLAN - 2025-2026

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve submission to the NJDOE of the 2025-2026 District Mentoring Plan, as attached.

226-102-APPROVAL OF REVISED 2025-2026 DISTRICT ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the revised District Assessment Schedule for the 2025-2026 school year, as attached.

226-103 – ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to accept donation of 25 children's books for the pre-k program, from the Chardon family.

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 MCQUIN Seconded by RODRIGUEZ to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following personnel agenda numbers 226-104 through 226-120.

Roll Call: 6 YES

226-104 - ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT - D. DECESARE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the retirement of Dennis DeCesare, district custodian of 26 years, effective January 1, 2026.

226-105 - ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION - J. PAGUIRIGAN

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of Justin Paguirigan, pt custodian, effective 9/12/2025.

<u> 226-106 - APPOINTMENT OF HIRE – SUB CUSTODIAN – J. PAGUIRIGAN</u>

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Justin Paguirigan, as an on call, substitute custodian, at a rate of \$20/hr., no benefits, effective 9/23/25.

226-107 - ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION - O. HEATH

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of Olivia Heath, pt aide, effective 9/26/2025.

226-108 - APPOINTMENT OF HIRE - O. HEATH

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Olivia Heath, as a maternity leave replacement, at \$175 per diem, no benefits, effective 9/29/25-2/27/26.

226-109 - APPOINTMENT OF HIRE - K. GORMAN

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Katherine Gorman, as a pre-k teacher, (currently Pre-K sub) MA, Step 1, \$69,255, pro-rated, in accordance with current WPEA contract. Effective pending receipt of proper paperwork.

226-110 - APPROVE TO RESCIND APPOINTMENT – A. CRISTELLO

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to rescind the appointment of Alissa Cristello, previously approved at the 4/14/25 meeting.

226-111 - APPOINTMENT OF HIRE – D. MURRAY

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Diane Murray, as a pre-k teacher, BA, Step 1, \$62,805, pro-rated, in accordance with current WPEA contract. Effective pending receipt of proper paperwork.

226-112 - APPOINTMENT OF HIRE - DAILY SUBSTITUTE - 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 daily substitute, at a rate of \$150 per diem, effective 9/23/25.

226-113 - APPOINTMENT OF HIRE - MATERNITY LEAVE REPLACEMENT - L. BROWN

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Laura Brown, as a maternity leave replacement, at \$175 per diem, no benefits, effective 11/10/25-4/15/26.

226-114 - APPOINTMENT OF HIRE - SUB CUSTODIAN - D. FELIZ

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Damien Feliz, as an on call, substitute custodian, at a rate of \$22/hr., no benefits, effective 9/23/25.

226-115- RATIFY CHANGE IN ASSIGNMENT – C. GIANNINO

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to ratify approval of change in assignment for Caitlyn Giannino, from lunch aide to part time aide, for the 2025-2026 school year, at a rate of \$27.79, not to exceed 28.5 hours per week, as per current WPEA agreement, retroactive to September 2, 2025.

226-116 - APPROVAL OF STAFF CLASS CHANGE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following staff class changes, retroactive to September 1, 2025: Daniella Arias – from BA, Step 2, \$63,305 to BA+30, Step 2, \$69,755

226-117 - APPROVAL OF MATERNITY/FAMILY LEAVE - J. FACE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve maternity/family leave for Jayme Face, under the Federal Family Leave Act, from February 5, 2026-April 1, 2026, using accumulated days. Following FFL, leave will be taken under the NJ Family Leave Act, from April 2, 2026-September 4, 2026. Expected return to work, September 8, 2026.

226-118 - RATIFY APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL HOURS - T. CARBONELLI

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to ratify approval of additional summer hours for Teresa Carbonelli, to complete medical portions of registration, from August 18, 2025-September 1, 2025, not to exceed 40 hours, at a rate of \$48/hr.

226-119 - 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 2025-2026 school year in accordance with current WPEA contract, as listed:

Title	School	Name	Amount
Morning Duty	BG	Alyssa Handel	\$1,750
Spelling Bee	Memorial & BG	Nora DiBona & Pam Yesenosky	\$125 each

226-120 - 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 2025-2026 school year.

Name	Activity	Date	Fee	Travel/Hotel	Total
Aleksandar Kondovski	NJSBA Annual Workshop	10/20-10/23 2025	\$550	\$798(approx.)	\$1,348
Jennifer Smith	Middle School Conflict Resolution	11/4/25	NA	NA	NA
Jennifer Smith	Unconscious Bias	11/5/25	NA	NA	NA
Lynn Roehrich	Approach to Children w Diabetes	10/16/25	NA	\$11.28	\$11.28
Cheryl Eustic	Mental Health Toolbox for CST	10/14/25	NA	\$6.44	\$6.44

Tara Byrnes	Legal One Anti-Bullying Specialist	Self Paced	\$500	NA	\$500
	Preschool Community Parent	11/20/25			
Jordan Harkins	Involvement Specialists in State	&	NA	\$65.80	\$65.80
	Funded Preschool Programs	2/26/26			
Jordan Harkins	Anti-Bullying Specialist Cert Program	Self Paced	\$500	NA	\$500
Beth DeMarco	Fall Conference for Case Managers	10/14/2025	NA	\$6.40	\$6.40
Cara DeAngelis					
Katherine Gorman	Intro to Creative Curriculum	9/24-9/25 2025	NA	NA	NA
Courtney Ramirez					
Deena Matalkah	AT/AAC Expo	11/14/25	NA	\$12.00/ea	\$12.00/ea
Kathryn Williams	NJ School Counselor's 2025 Confer.	9/29/25	\$149	\$36.08	\$185.08

FINANCE:

The following finance 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 <u>RODRIGUEZ</u> Seconded by <u>MCQUIN</u> to accept the recommendation of the Business Administrator to approve the following finance agenda numbers 226-121 through 226-123.

Roll Call: 6 YES

226-121 - APPROVAL -NRESC -TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT - 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the transportation contract with NRESC for the following 2025-2026 bus routes:

Route#	School (s)	Contractor	# of	Estimated Cost per	Starting Date
			Students	Route (+ surcharge)	
4114	IDA Gurtman Children's	Onetime Trans	1	18,900.00+1,134.00	9/5/25-6/17/26
	Therapy Program				
Q4137	Benway School	Omar Trans	1	6,045.00+362.70	9/4/25-10/31/25
Q4139	Charles Olbon	Prestige Xpress	1	5,600.00+336.00	9/5/25-10/31/25

<u>226-122- APPROVAL OF SERVICE AGREEMENT – NJ PEDIATRIC NEUROSCIENCE INSTITUTE -2025-2026</u> BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve professional services

agreement with New Jersey Pediatric Neuroscience Institute, for the 2025-2026 school year, to provide referred student evaluations at a rate of \$795 per student's Board of Education Evaluation.

226-123-APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF PURCHASING AGENT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF BID THRESHOLD

BE IT RESOLVED by the Woodland Park Board of Education, approval be given to the following:

WHEREAS, Aleksandar Kondovski, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, does not possess a Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) certificate;

WHEREAS, the State Treasurer, in consultation with the Governor and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:34-7 and N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 (b), has increased the bid threshold amount for school districts without a Qualified Purchasing Agent, from \$32,000 to \$39,000, effective July 1, 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Woodland Park School District, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 (a), establishes and sets the bid threshold amount of \$39,000 for the school district, and further authorizes the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to award contracts, in full accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 (a), for those purchases that do not exceed in the aggregate of the newly established bid threshold amount.

Furthermore, for contracts in the aggregate that are less than the bid threshold but fifteen (15%) or more of the amount, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall award contracts after soliciting at least two competitive quotations.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37 (c), is authorized to award contracts that are in the aggregate less than fifteen (15%) percent of the bid threshold without soliciting competitive quotations.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Marren commended the Memorial Ambassadors. She also read a quote by Dr. Giammarella that was shared with her.

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.

Anthony Billson – 43 Rockland Ave.

Anthony, from Troop 26 in Totowa, gave an update on his Eagle Scout project at Memorial. After consulting with Mr. Bolen, there were some concerns about the placement of the flags. The new plans will have 2 poles to the left and 2 poles to the right, slightly behind the American flag, along with pavers and shrubs to provide a finished landscaped look to match what is currently there. Once approved, work will start on 11/2 by marking locations, digging the holes and pouring the cement for the poles. With the help of fellow troop members, they will continue and complete the project from 11/6-11/9, weather permitting.

Tom Bolen - B&G Supervisor

Mr. Bolen asked the Board if they could come to a decision regarding an architect, as it is delaying projects that need to be done.

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 ___8:30_ p.m. by _SALEMI_, seconded by MCQUIN_

Voice Vote: 6 YES

Motion to return to Regular Session at 10:20 p.m. by SALEMI, seconded by MARREN

Voice Vote: 6 YES

Ms. Marren made the following motion from the floor:

226-14A-APPROVE NEW PLAN FOR HOUSE FLAG POLES

Motion by MARREN Seconded by SALEMI

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve revised plan for House flag poles at Memorial, for Eagle Scout project.

Roll Call: 6 YES

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 10:21 p.m. by SALEMI, Seconded by MARREN

Voice Vote: 6 YES

WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- The Board discussed architectural services
- The Board discussed options for drivers for the new van
- The BA discussed the impact of the health insurance increase to the 25-26 budget
- The Board discussed personnel issues
- The Board updated committee assignments

Respectfully Submitted,

Aleksandar Kondovski

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary