

**MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL VOTING MEETING
HIGH SCHOOL NORTH AUDITORIUM
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020 7:00 PM**



Middletown Township Board of Education

**Pamela Rogers, President
Robin Stella, Vice-President
Leonora Caminiti
Nicholas DiFranco
Michael Donlon
Thomas Giaimo
John Little
Joan Minnuies
Deborah Wright**

**William O. George III, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools**

**Amy P. Doherty, CPA
Business Administrator / Board Secretary**

Mission Statement

The Middletown Township Public School District, in partnership with our resourceful and historically rich community, provides students with a rigorous and relevant education, rooted in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, motivating them to recognize and develop their full potential as responsible citizens, contributing to an ever-evolving global society.

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Guidelines for Public Comment

Please remember this is a public meeting. Anything you say will be a public record. As a result, pursuant to law, the Board of Education 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. Public comment periods shall also be governed by the following rules:

1. A participant must be recognized by the Board President or presiding officer and must preface comments by an announcement of his/her name, address or municipality of residence, and group affiliation, if applicable;
2. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to THREE minutes' duration;
3. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard;
4. All statements, questions, or inquiries shall be directed to the Board President and any questions or inquiries directed by a participant to another Board member shall be redirected to determine if such statement, question, or inquiry shall be addressed on behalf of the Board or by the individual Board member; and
5. Questions requiring investigation shall be referred by the Board to the Superintendent's office for consideration and later response. A participant may be asked to submit such questions in written format.

Code of Ethics for School Board Members (Statute 18A:12-24.1):

- I will uphold and enforce all laws, state board rules and regulations, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes should be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.
- I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools which meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex or social standing.
- I will confine my board action to policymaking, planning, and appraisal and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the board has consulted those who will be affected by them.
- I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow board members, to see that they are well run.
- I will recognize that authority rests with the board of education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action which may compromise the board.
- I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.
- I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. But, in all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its schools.
- I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.
- I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.
- I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on such complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

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1. 7:00 p.m. Call to Order by the Board President and Reading of the Sunshine Announcement:

“Adequate notice of this meeting was provided by sending such notice to the Asbury Park Press, The Middletown Patch, and the Middletown Twp. Public Schools District Website and the posting of such notice at the August T. Miner Administrative Offices and each elementary, middle, and secondary school in the district”.

2. Roll Call

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Open to the Public on Agenda Items Only (limited to 30 minutes)

5. Reports

A. Report of the Superintendent of Schools

1. Resolution for Consolidation of Port Monmouth and New Monmouth Elementary Schools;

Whereas the Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to provide a thorough and efficient program of free public education and appropriate facilities to house that program; and

Whereas the signing of the S2 bill into law in July 2018 had an immediate impact on the Middletown Township Public School district and by time of full implementation of the state aid reallocation under this law, Middletown Township Public Schools will have lost a projected \$5.5 million in state school aid; and

Whereas the District further recognizes that declining enrollments, diminished resources, district reorganization, and/or other good cause may require the use of one or more district facilities for educational purposes be abandoned; and

Whereas the District has discussed at board meetings and at its strategic planning forums the anticipated growing budget shortfalls going forward and the need to make changes in our operations and our district footprint in order to preserve our programs and services; and

Whereas the district has been working to find ways to address this that are not in conflict with our mission and the priorities identified during the strategic planning forums; and

Whereas alternative organizational structures were considered other than the proposed consolidation of Port Monmouth and New Monmouth Schools but it was determined that those structures did not meet the intended goals of lowering overall costs to reduce the current budget shortfall, lowering elementary class sizes and avoiding redistricting of students, which can't be accomplished for the 2020-2021 school year without further studies but has been discussed during the Strategic Planning Process as a measure to address overcrowding in some schools; and

Whereas in compliance with Board Policy 7130, the District has collected and considered the appropriate information, disseminated this information to the public for analysis, and solicited public response through multiple forums and platforms;

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Now, therefore let it be resolved that the Middletown Township Board of Education will authorize the district administration to request a recommendation from the Executive County Superintendent of Schools and request approval from the NJ Department of Education, Division of Finance to consolidate Port Monmouth Elementary School and New Monmouth Elementary School effective with the 2020-2021 school year, with all students attending school at New Monmouth Elementary School.

6. Public Comment – Limited to thirty minutes

7. Motion to Adjourn