



MIDDLE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS **BOARD BRIEFS**

*A recap of the **08.21.25** Board of Education meeting*

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

On behalf of the Board of Education, I thank all of our staff for preparing classrooms, facilities, and resources to create a welcoming environment for our students as they begin the school year. We appreciate everything our staff does to support our students and our schools. The board also appreciates the superintendent's efforts as we all look forward to the new school year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

I am so thankful for the dedication of our staff members to help students start strong this school year. I remind families to complete the **free and reduced lunch applications**, which impact district funding that can support smaller class sizes, supplies, and other resources. Thank you to the administration, Dr. Salvo, and Dr. Fox for their hard work in preparing schools for the start of the year despite significant district needs. I am committed to carefully reviewing expenditures and processes to ensure decisions prioritize students and teachers. I look forward to personally facilitating the upcoming strategic planning process, involving community, staff, and board members to set five-year goals.

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

- Approval of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act grant in the amount of \$ 1,014,860.
- Approval of Raptor Technologies school security software at an annual cost of \$15,000 and one-time set up cost of \$11,106.
- Substitute teaching rates were adjusted:
 - Substitute teacher w/substitute cert. - \$150 per day
 - Substitute teacher w/teacher cert. - \$160 per day
 - Long-term substitute teacher w/teacher cert. - \$175 per day

Meeting minutes must be board-approved at the following month's meeting before release.

SUPERINTENDENT

Stephanie DeRose

ASST. SUPT. / SCHOOL BA / BOE SECRETARY

Dr. Diane S. Fox

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Claudia Miller

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

- September 18, 2025
- October 16, 2025
- November 20, 2025
- December 11, 2025*
- Organization Meeting - January 6, 2026 - 4 p.m.*

Meetings are held at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the Administration Building: 216 S. Main St., Cape May Court House

**Exceptions to regular time/location*

ANSWERS TO PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Topic: Electric Costs

- Through membership in the Alliance for Competitive Energy Services (ACES) co-op program, the district's costs on the transmission portion of the electric bill are locked in for the next 18 months. Systems continue to be set to unoccupied mode in the late evenings to help cut power usage, which has been our practice for years. The district is exploring a new solar contract; the existing one expires in two years.

Topic: Graduation Venue

- The district did consider the PAC and the high school gym as alternatives. It was determined that indoor space was not conducive to graduation as it has been used in the past when it rained, and limited families to one or two tickets depending on the size of the class.

Topic: Field Maintenance

- Maintenance is ongoing at all of the fields, including Memorial Field. The bleachers were refurbished and the press box was replaced in the 2001 referendum. Maintenance was done on the lighting at Memorial Field; the lights are old and replacement parts are no longer available. The wooden poles were more than 30 years old and had deteriorated. Although these items are maintained, they do age out and eventually need to be replaced.

Topic: PAC Deficit

- We have addressed the question about the PAC deficit multiple times over the past two years. State of New Jersey accounting standards for schools do not allow for excessive surplus accounts. Unlike private enterprises, districts are limited in how much they can save. The only way for districts to perform large-scale building improvements is to pursue bond borrowing through a referendum.

Topic: Food Service Guidelines

- The Board carefully reviews all aspects of our contracted partners, including Chartwells Food Service, to ensure that our students' needs are being met. New Jersey school food service guidelines, administered by the NJ Department of Agriculture, require nutritious, well-balanced meals that follow the National School Lunch Program standards. Once school is underway, we will have a more accurate count of students participating in breakfast and lunch programs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT **DR. DIANE S. FOX** 