



# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS **BOARD BRIEFS**

*A recap of the **09.18.25** Board of Education meeting*

## **PRESIDENT'S UPDATE**

The Board of Education is elated for the start of the school year! We are excited about the breadth of opportunities that lie ahead for our students. It was wonderful to see strong attendance and support at Back to School Nights. Thank you, parents and guardians, for entrusting the district with your children. Kudos to all of our staff members for everything you do to welcome our families and community. We wish our students a safe, productive and memorable school year.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Middle Township School District is thrilled to have our students back and the school year in full swing. We sincerely thank all parents and guardians who attended our Back to School Nights, and appreciate the continued support of our schools.

We also benefit from strong partnerships with the Middle Township Police Department, School Resource Officers and county agencies. Together, we remain committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for our staff and students. We also are grateful to the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office for helping families navigate the challenges of social media. Finally, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our county's elected officials for a moving 9/11 ceremony honoring the first responders who gave their lives in service.

## **AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS**

- Approval of Performing Arts Center contracts totaling \$9,740 for performances from December 2025 to February 2026
- Approval of new hires, including a Navy National Defense Cadet Corps instructor, Spanish teacher, teacher's aides and custodial workers
- Creation of Assistant School Business Administrator and District Technology Coordinator positions
- Approval of 2025 Middle Township District corrective action plan for addressing chronic absenteeism

*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

## **MTPS BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **PRESIDENT**

Stephanie Thomas

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Brian Vergantino

### **MEMBERS**

Lindsey DeLollis

Burgess (Butch) Hamer

Jonathon Hand

Christopher Ingersoll

Cheryl McHale

Krista Ostrander

Sam Caraballo

### **DENNIS TOWNSHIP REPRESENTATIVE**

Claudia Miller

**MIDDLETOWNSHIPPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG**

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS

- October 16, 2025
- November 20, 2025
- December 11, 2025\*
- Organization Mtg - 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: Paraprofessionals

- We appreciate the hard work and dedication of our paraprofessionals, custodians and support staff — they are essential to providing our students with positive school experiences. Decisions about wages and benefits are determined through union contract negotiations, not by the school district alone. We will continue advocating for fair compensation and retention.

### Topic: Instructional Gaps

- We understand concerns about student achievement, particularly in foundational skills such as reading, math and writing. At Middle Township Schools, we believe in the importance of a balanced educational program that transcends the classroom. Core instruction ensures students gain foundational skills, while enrichment programs and athletics provide unique opportunities for life lessons such as teamwork, resilience, problem-solving and leadership. Both are critical to supporting the whole child academically, socially and emotionally.
- These programs also include targeted interventions designed to support students who are not yet on grade level. Middle Township Schools regularly examines student data to identify areas for growth and ensure no child is forgotten. The progress we see is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our teachers, staff and students and motivates us to continue improving and supporting every child's learning journey.

### Topic: Appropriate Comments

- In the context of public comment at Board of Education meetings, "appropriate" remarks are related to school district matters, respectful in tone and within the guidelines established by the Board. Parameters include staying on topic, observing the five-minute time limit and addressing issues that fall under the Board's purview. Comments that are unrelated to school district matters, disruptive or personally targeted are considered inappropriate and should not occur during the meeting.

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