

Mohonasen Central School District

*Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Education
Monday, February 2, 2026
Center for Technology/Mohonasen Main Campus*

Call to Order

The Board meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Montagino, at 5:59 PM

Roll Call

Board Members Present: *Danielle Ciampino, Chad McFarland, Ted Perretta, Heather Lanaro, Pat Ryan, Nick Giardono and Ericka Montagino*
Board Members Absent: *None*
Administrators Present: *Shannon Shine, Laurel Logan-King and Chris Ruberti*
Others in Attendance: *Jason Thompson and Leslie Smith*

Executive Session

Executive Session for the purpose of tenure portfolio review

MOTION made by Mrs. Ciampino, seconded by Mr. Perretta, that an executive session be convened at 6:00 PM for the purpose of tenure portfolio review.

Return to Public Session

MOTION made by Mrs. Lanaro, seconded by Mr. Ryan, that the executive session be adjourned at 6:26 PM. The motion was passed unanimously, seven members present and voting.

Call to Order

The Board meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Montagino, at 6:32 PM

Roll Call

Board Members Present: *Danielle Ciampino, Ted Perretta, Nick Giardono, Heather Lanaro, Ericka Montagino, Pat Ryan, Chad McFarland and Vanessa Palleschi*
Board Members Absent: *None*
Administrators Present: *Shannon Shine, Laurel Logan-King and Chris Ruberti*
Others in Attendance: *Mr. Thompson, Mr. Ronca, Mrs. Lutz, Mrs. Smith, Mr. March, Mrs. Callender, Mrs. Nikles, Mrs. Eckl, Mrs. Christy, Mr. Parker, Mr. O'Connor, Ms. DeLuca, Mr. Karandy, Mrs. Lossi, Mrs. Lutz, Mr. Salamone, Mr. Denning, Ms. Rounds, Mrs. Sherman, Mrs. Trestick, Mrs. Coffey, Mrs. Pitterson, Mrs. Shanz, Mr. Hayes, Mrs. DiCocco, Mr. Cimoehowski, Mrs. Craver, Mr. Hart, student representatives Madelyn Day, Anthony Crisafulli, Lucas Avery, Laurel Karp, Isabella DiPietro and Kelsie Fitzgerald, 30 students and 23 members of community members of the community*

Communications - Superintendent

Acapella group, For Good Measure, performed a selection

Mr. Shine welcomed the acapella group, For Good Measure, who performed a song for the Board and audience.

Student Representatives - Madelyn Day, Anthony Crisafulli, Lucas Avery, Laurel Karp, Isabella DiPietro and Kelsie Fitzgerald

Student representatives, Madelyn Day, Anthony Crisafulli, Lucas Avery, Laurel Karp, Isabella DiPietro and Kelsie Fitzgerald gave the Board an update on events at each of the District schools. The High School Drone Team earned a trip to the district championships and the acapella group, For Good Measure recently won first place in the quarterfinals of the International Championship of Highschool Acapella; at Draper Middle School, students participated in a winter pep rally for color guard and sports teams and Mohon Masque Jr. performed *Suessical the Musical*; Pinewood held their annual spelling bee where 26 students competed for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places; Bradt staff and faculty held an underground spirit week and held a 75th birthday celebration with cake with their lunches.

Personnel

Mrs. Montagino made a motion to move the personnel section. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion that the Board of Education move the personnel section to the beginning of the meeting. The motion was passed unanimously, seven members present and voting.

MOTION made by Mr. McFarland, seconded by Mrs. Lanaro, that the Board of Education approve the following personnel recommendations.

Mrs. Ciampino abstained from voting on the termination section (section E) of the personnel recommendations.

The motion was passed unanimously, six members present and voting.

Retirements

Mary Ann Nickloy
Assignment: AIS Teacher
Expiration Date: Close of business June 30, 2026

Benjamin Pierson
Assignment: SPED Teacher
Expiration Date: Close of business June 30, 2026

Elizabeth Young
Assignment: School Psychologist
Expiration Date: Close of business June 30, 2026

Linda Breen
Assignment: Spanish Teacher
Expiration Date: Close of business June 30, 2026

Laura Stickle
Assignment: Food Service Helper
Expiration Date: Close of business January 31, 2026

Kevin Daviero
Assignment: Physical Education Teacher
Expiration Date: Close of business October 6, 2026

Tenure

Michael Salamone
Appointment: Music
Effective Date: April 26, 2026

Evan Denning
Appointment: Social Studies
Effective Date: May 31, 2026

Cathy Scheer
Appointment: Mathematics
Effective Date: June 30, 2026

Thomas O'Connor
Appointment: Principal
Effective Date: August 6, 2026

Matthew Ronca
Appointment: Athletic Director
Effective Date: August 15, 2026

Appointments

Jamie DeRusso
Appointment: Probationary
Position: School Counselor
Tenure Area: School Counseling and Guidance
Date of Commencement: March 2, 2026
Expiration Date: March 3, 2030
Certification Status: School Counselor, Permanent Certificate
Salary: Step 6 plus graduate credits

Savannah Russell
Appointment: Long Term Substitute
Assignment: Elementary Teacher
Date of Commencement: September 1, 2025
Expiration Date: June 30, 2026
Salary: Step 2 plus Graduate Credits

Brittany Willsie (*amended from the August 13, 2025 meeting*)

Appointment: Probationary

Position: Reading Teacher

Tenure Area: Remedial Reading

Date of Commencement: January 27, 2025

Expiration Date: January 28, 2028

Certification Status: Literacy (Birth – Grade 6) Professional

Certificate, Students with Disabilities (Birth – Grade 2)

Professional Certificate, Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6)

Professional Certificate, Early Childhood Education (Birth -Grade

2) Professional Certificate, Childhood Education (Grades 1-6)

Professional Certificate,

Salary: Step 6 plus graduate credits

Linda Kovel (*amended from the January 5, 2026 meeting*)

Appointment: Long Term Substitute

Assignment: Elementary Teacher

Date of Commencement: December 9, 2025

Expiration Date: February 23, 2026

Salary: Step 5 plus Graduate Credits

Kailynn Haley

Appointment: Teaching Assistant

Assignment: P/T Teaching Assistant (6 hours)

Date of Commencement: January 26, 2026

Salary: Step 6

Karissa Barringer

Appointment: Teaching Assistant

Assignment: P/T Teaching Assistant (6 hours)

Date of Commencement: January 26, 2026

Salary: Step 1

Caitlin Palazeke

Appointment: Teaching Assistant

Assignment: P/T Teaching Assistant (6 hours)

Date of Commencement: February 1, 2026

Salary: Step 2

Vashtie Persaud

Appointment: Teaching Assistant

Assignment: P/T Teaching Assistant (6 hours)

Date of Commencement: January 8, 2026

Salary: Step 1

Gary Lombardo
Appointment: Teaching Assistant
Assignment: P/T Teaching Assistant (6 hours)
Date of Commencement: January 19, 2026
Salary: Step 3

Patricia Moss
Appointment: Teaching Assistant
Assignment: P/T Teaching Assistant (6 hours)
Date of Commencement: February 2, 2026
Salary: Step 9

Robert D. Geurtze
Appointment: Transportation Assistant Director
Location: Transportation
Date of Commencement: October 22, 2025
Salary: \$75,000

Hayden Morrill
Appointment: Substitute Bus Driver
Location: Transportation
Date of Commencement: February 2, 2026
Salary: \$21.00 per hour

Michael Stevens
Assignment: Substitute Bus Aide
Location: Transportation
Effective Date: January 20, 2026
Salary: \$16.00 per hour

Joan M Messina
Assignment: Substitute Bus Aide
Location: Transportation
Effective Date: February 4, 2026
Salary: \$16.00 per hour

Michael S. DeBiase
Assignment: Substitute Bus Aide
Location: Transportation
Effective Date: February 4, 2026
Salary: \$16.00 per hour

Rose McGill
Assignment: Substitute Security Monitor
Location: Districtwide (DMS)
Effective Date: January 5, 2026
Salary: \$16.25 per hour

Rebecca Ludena
Assignment: Substitute Security Monitor
Location: Districtwide (DMS)
Effective Date: February 2, 2026
Salary: \$16.25 per hour

Wayman Walker III
Assignment: Substitute Security Monitor
Location: Districtwide
Effective Date: February 2, 2026
Salary: \$16.25 per hour

Arsenio Arrington
Assignment: Security Monitor
Location: Districtwide (DMS)
Effective Date: February 2, 2026
Salary: \$26,500

Robin Viscusi
Assignment: Substitute Food Service Helper
Location: Districtwide
Effective Date: January 20, 2026
Salary: \$16.00 per hour

Adella Banks
Assignment: Food Service Helper
Location: Bradt Elementary School
Effective Date: February 1, 2026
Salary: \$16.00 per hour

Kim Quinlivan
Assignment: Substitute Food Service Helper
Location: Bradt and Pinewood
Effective Date: January 17, 2026
Salary: \$16.00 per hour

Kim Quinlivan
Assignment: Substitute Cafeteria Aide
Location: Bradt and Pinewood
Effective Date: January 17, 2026
Salary: \$16.00 per hour

Nancy Bataglia
Assignment: Substitute Cafeteria Aide
Location: Pinewood
Effective Date: February 2, 2026
Salary: \$16.00 per hour

Sutwig Dinney
Assignment: Cleaner
Location: Pinewood Intermediate School
Effective Date: February 9, 2026
Salary: \$16.62 per hour

2026 Mohon Masque Junior

Name	Position	Stipend
Abigail Fast	Music Director	\$1,500
Gabrielle Guardiano	Director	\$1,500

2025-2026 Student Teacher/Intern

Name	Bldg.	Teacher/Co unselor	Dates
Anthony Knapick	Draper	Josh Sawicki	1/7/26 - 4/29/26

2026 Indoor Percussion Coaches

Name	Sport/Level	Step
Irvin Jenkins	Indoor Percussion	1
Julia Varga	Indoor Percussion	1

Spring Coaches 2026

Name	Sport	Step	Longevity
Kevin Sheremeta	Varsity Baseball	7 + Longevity \$300	11
James Dilbone	Varsity Baseball Assistant	7	8
Richard Caruso	JV Baseball	7	9
(Jim) Demetrious Huggins	Freshman Baseball	7 + Longevity \$898	18
Alex Gannon	Modified Baseball	1	1
AJ Fasolino	Mod/JV/Varsity Baseball	Volunteer	
Vinnie Carolla	Mod/JV/Varsity Baseball	Volunteer	
Kati Hayes	Varsity Softball	2	2
Matt Poodiack	Varsity Softball Assistant	2	2

Kayla Fountain	JV Softball	4	4
Taylor Lupi	Modified Softball	4	4
Brian Barry	Mod/JV/Varsity Softball	Volunteer	
Kevin Rushia	Mod/JV/Varsity Softball	Volunteer	
Josh Whipple	Varsity Girls Flag Football Head	TBD	1
Open	Varsity Girls Flag Football Assistant		
Emma Nuzzi	Boys Varsity Tennis	Paid by Schenectady	
Tom Howley	Track & Field Head	7	9
Tara Halliday	Boys Track Assistant	7	?
Phil Carducci	Boys Track Assistant	7	1
Evan Denning	Girls Track Assistant	4	4
Nicole Moslander (.5) Open (.5)	Girls Track Assistant	7	3
Brian Atwell	Boys/Girls Throws Coach	5	5
Wade Abbott	Boys Modified Track	7	7
Glenn Wolin	Boys Modified Track	2	2
Open	Girls Modified Track		
Marcus Cronin	Girls Modified Track	7	2
Matt Marotta	Boys Varsity	Paid by	

	Lacrosse	Schenectady	
Rich Burega	Boys Varsity Lacrosse Assistant	Paid By Schenectady	
Andrew Butryn	Boys JV Lacrosse	Paid By Schenectady	
Rusty Decker	Boys Modified Lacrosse	Paid By Schenectady	
Keith Pollizatto	Girls Varsity Lacrosse	Paid By Schenectady	
Delaney Kendricks	Girls Varsity Lacrosse Assistant	Paid By Schenectady	
Corrine Pepper	Girls JV Lacrosse	Paid By Schenectady	
John O'Donnell	Girls Modified Lacrosse	Paid By Schenectady	
Ray Kearney	Strength and Conditioning	7	

Spring Coaches 2026

Name	Sport	Step
Jodi Scalise	Unified Bowling	5

2025-2026 Intramurals

Name	Building
Ray Kearney	Mohonasen High School

Resignations

Melissa Ragone
Appointment: Teacher Assistant
Effective Date: Close of business January 8, 2026

Vashtie Persaud
Appointment: Teacher Aide
Effective Date: Close of business January 7, 2026

Riley Clark
Appointment: Teacher Assistant
Effective Date: January 31, 2026

Kamla Seecharran
Appointment: Teacher Assistant
Effective Date: Close of business January 28, 2026

Kim Quinlivian
Appointment: Food Service Helper
Effective Date: January 16, 2026

Cassandra Palkovic
Appointment: 6th Grade Teacher
Effective Date: Close of business February 20, 2026

Tanya Healy
Appointment: Health Office Assistant (10 month)
Effective Date: Close of business January 29, 2026

Johntaisia Young
Appointment: Health Office Assistant (10 month)
Effective Date: Close of business February 2, 2026

Brittany Willsie (amended from the August 13, 2025 meeting)
Appointment: Elementary Teacher
Effective Date: Close of business January 26, 2025

Jason Mutford
Appointment: Math Teacher
Effective Date: Close of business June 30, 2026

Fernando Laboy-Caraballo
Appointment: Bus Driver
Effective Date: Close of business January 30, 2026

Fernando Laboy-Caraballo
Appointment: Monitor
Effective Date: Close of business January 30, 2026

Terminations

Laci Lanahan
Appointment: Substitute Bus Aide
Effective Dates: January 26, 2026

Laci Lanahan
Appointment: Substitute Monitor
Effective Dates: January 26, 2026

Terry Lawson
Appointment: Boy's JV Wrestling Coach
Effective Dates: January 26, 2026

Return to Superintendent Communications

Special Education Continuum and Overview - Mrs. Callender

The presentation summarizes Mohonasen's 2025–2026 Special Education program, highlighting a full continuum of K–12 services aligned with the Least Restrictive Environment, from integrated supports to self-contained and out-of-district placement. Mohonasen serves about 15% students with disabilities—below the state average—with multiple graduation pathways and a 63% graduation rate for students with disabilities. Key priorities include strengthening literacy through Science of Reading practices, using data to guide future programming, and expanding in-district options to better meet student needs.

Tax Levy, Debt Service, Bus Proposition, BOCES, Employee Benefits and General Support; Potential State Budget Update - Mr. Ruberti

The February 2, 2026 budget presentation outlines the proposed 2026–2027 budget, highlighting a projected \$675,000 increase in Foundation Aid, continued universal school meals, and a tax levy increase estimated at no more than 3.23%, with an average homeowner impact of about \$100 on a \$250,000 home. Major cost drivers include health insurance (+\$700,000), salaries, transportation, and special education placements, partially offset by decreases in BOCES costs and teacher retirement expenses. BOCES services remain significant, with an expected aid ratio of 72.1% and an overall net decrease in BOCES expenses. Despite revenue increases, the district projects a minimum budget gap of at least \$690,000 for 2026–2027, which will likely grow throughout the budget process. These deficits will grow in future years, emphasizing the need for long-term financial planning.

Public Privilege of the Floor

Wade Abbott addressed the Board from the dual perspective of a coach and a parent. He advocated for Coach Denning's tenure, citing the essential mentorship coaches provide to student-athletes. Mr. Abbott also commended the district's Career Exploration program and Ms. Sacks' leadership, noting that his son's current teaching internship provides invaluable experiential learning that strengthens college applications.

Communications - Board of Education

Mrs. Ciampino read a statement regarding her involvement with a lawsuit against New York State.

New Business - Instructional

Approval and Arrangement for the Committee on Special Education Recommendations and Student Placements, Committee on Pre-School Special Education and Section

Request for Approval and Arrangement for the Committee on Special Education Recommendations and Student Placements, Committee on Pre- School Special Education and Section 504 Committee

MOTION made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mrs. Ciampino that the Board of Education approve the Committee on Special Education Recommendations and Student Placements, Committee on Pre-School Special Education and Section 504 Committee. The motion was passed unanimously, seven members present and voting.

504 Committee

**NEW BUSINESS -
BUSINESS/PERSONNEL**

*Approval of the
2026-2027 School Year
Calendar*

*Approval to Enter into a
Contract with My Own
Drum Studios for the
2025-2026 School Year*

*Approval of Health and
Welfare Contract with
Niskayuna Central
School District*

*Approval of Substitute
Rates Not Covered by
Substitute Teachers
Contract*

Approved Minutes

Adjournment

Request made by Mrs. Montagino to approve all items on a consent agenda

MOTION made by Mr. McFarland, seconded by Mr. Giardono, that the Board of Education approve items New Business - Instructional on a consent agenda.

The motion was passed unanimously, seven members present and voting.

MOTION made by Mr. Perretta, seconded by Mr. Giardono, that the Board of Education approve the minutes of January 5, 2026.

The motion was passed unanimously, seven members present and voting.

MOTION made by Mrs. Ciampino, seconded by Mrs. Lanaro, that an executive session be convened at 7:38 PM for the purpose of meeting with Mohonasen support staff union representatives.

MOTION made by Mr. McFarland, seconded by Mrs. Ciampino, that the executive session be adjourned at 8:56 PM. The motion was passed unanimously, seven members present and voting.

MOTION made by Mrs. Ciampino, seconded by Mr. Giardono, that the Board of Education meeting be adjourned at 8:57PM.

The motion passed unanimously, seven members present and voting.

Christopher Ruberti

Clerk - Board of Education

Assistant Superintendent for Business