Mohonasen Central School District

Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Education
Tuesday, October 13, 2026
Farnsworth Technology Center/Mohonasen High School

Call to Order

The Board meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. McFarland, at 6:30 PM. Mr. McFarland requested those present to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: *Danielle Ciampino, Chad McFarland, Ted Perretta, Heather Lanaro, Nick Giardono, Ericka Montagino and Thomas Gianatasio.*
Board Members Absent: *Pat Ryan*
Administrators Present: *Shannon Shine, Laurel Logan-King and Chris Ruberti*
Others in Attendance: Mr. Thompson, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. DeLuca, Mrs. Calendar, Mr. Neilsen, Ms. Wells, Mr. Parker, Mr. O'Connor, Mrs. Eckl, Mrs. Lutz, Mrs. Nickels, Mr. Hubbell, Mrs. Kavanaugh, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Sherman, Phyllis DelVecchio, Elizabeth Ciccone, Andrea Pugliavento, Tecia Patterson, Cassandra Ramirez, Kim Trestik, Jen Palleschi, Alexcia Koonz, Anne Espinola, Becky Sokolowsky, Jenn McGuire, Michelle Howard, Linda Becker, Cristina Wheeler, Kate Winslow, Emma Tedisco, Caitlin Cunniff, Megan Gray, Meredith McLeod, and Fatamela Nurse

Communications - Superintendent

Board of Education Appreciation Week

Mr. Shine and the Academic Administrators thanked the Board for their service to the Mohonasen community and presented them with gifts for School Board Appreciation Week.

Audit Committee and Financial Updates - Mr. Ruberti

The Mohonasen Central School District ended the 2025–2026 fiscal year with a $2.3 million surplus, primarily due to unexpected one-time revenues and savings from unfilled positions. The District recommends maintaining the legally permitted 4% unappropriated fund balance, strengthening retirement reserves, and increasing the appropriated fund balance to $2.3 million for 2026–2027. Despite the surplus, the District anticipates potential budget deficits beginning in 2026–2027, with further details expected in the January 2027 update to the Multi-Year Financial Plan.

Draper Building Goals - Mr. O'Connor

Draper Middle School's 2026–2027 goals focus on increasing academic test scores by 5%, reducing late-to-class referrals by 5%, and decreasing chronic absenteeism by 5%. The presentation highlights academic progress, including improved ELA proficiency, along with building upgrades such as new gym flooring, bleachers, and lockers. Faculty and student feedback on the updated schedule has been positive, while the school continues to promote student engagement, positive behavior, and a supportive learning environment. Despite challenges with disciplinary referrals and chronic

absenteeism, Draper reported a 52% reduction in cell phone violations and remains committed to improving student achievement and school culture.

Public Privilege of the Floor

Mr. Godlewski addressed the Board regarding a senior school tax exemption.

Communications - Board of Education

Mr. McFarland said he was looking forward to fall traditions like the Powderpuff game and Homecoming. He noted that many fall sports teams have had great success this season.

New Business - Instructional

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

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 Mrs. Montagino, seconded by Mrs. Ciampino, that the Board of Education approve and arrange for the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education and the Preschool Special Education.

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

Approval for AP Biology and Anatomy & Physiology Classes to Participate in a Field Trip to the Liberty Science Center and Times Square

Request Approval for AP Biology and Anatomy & Physiology Classes to Participate in a Field Trip to the Liberty Science Center and Times Square

MOTION made by Mrs. Montagino, seconded by Mr. Perretta, that the Board of Education approve a field trip to New York City.

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

New Business - Business/Personnel

First Reading of Board Policies

Acceptance of District Financial Audit – Year Ended June 30, 2026

Acceptance of District Audit of Extraclassroom Activity and Corrective Action Plan – Year Ended June 30, 2026

Acceptance of District Internal Audit of Data Security and Corrective Action Plan – Year Ended June 30, 2026

Request made by Mr. McFarland to approve all items on the New Business - Instructional consent agenda.

MOTION made by Mrs. Ciampino, seconded by Mr. Giardono, that the Board of Education approve New Business - Business/Personnel 1-4 on a consent agenda.

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

Approved Minutes

MOTION made by Mr. Perretta, seconded by Mr. Giardono, that the Board of Education approve the minutes of September 8, 2026.
The motion was passed unanimously, six members present and voting.

Personnel

MOTION made by Mrs. Ciampino, seconded by Mrs. Montagino, that the Board of Education approve the following personnel recommendations.
The motion was passed unanimously, six members present and voting.

Appointments

Karla Empie
Appointment: Universal Pre-Kindergarten
Location: Districtwide
Date of Commencement: October 13, 2026 - December 31, 2027
Salary: $450 per day

Elizabeth Young
Appointment: School Psychologist
Location: Districtwide
Date of Commencement: September 2, 2026
Salary: Step 5 (for up to 50 days)

Christina Mathieu *(amended from the September 21, 2026 meeting)*
Assignment: 1.0 Additional Class *(returning to 1.0 FTE)*
Location: High School
Effective Date September 2, 2026 - June 30, 2027

Jennifer McGraw-Fusco
Appointment: Long Term Substitute
Location: Bradt Elementary School
Assignment: Elementary Teacher
Date of Commencement: October 2, 2026
Expiration Date: January 3, 2027

Vashti Veerasammy
Appointment: Teaching Assistant
Location: Bradt Elementary School
Assignment: P/T Teaching Assistant (6 hours)
Date of Commencement: October 7, 2026
Salary: Step 5

Michael Weblin
Appointment: Teaching Assistant
Location: Draper Middle School
Assignment: P/T Teaching Assistant (6 hours)
Date of Commencement: October 13, 2026
Salary: Step 13

Valerie Salsburg
Appointment: Teaching Assistant
Assignment: P/T Teaching Assistant (6 hours)
Date of Commencement: October 27, 2026
Salary: Step 4

Cypriana Harlow
Appointment: Teaching Assistant
Assignment: P/T Teaching Assistant (6 hours)
Date of Commencement: October 19, 2026
Salary: Step 2

RaeAnne Miller
Appointment: Substitute Monitor
Location: Districtwide
Date of Commencement: October 8, 2026
Salary: $16.75 per hour

Jazmin Sanchez
Appointment: Substitute Monitor
Location: Districtwide
Date of Commencement: September 28, 2026
Salary: $16.75 per hour

Alexandria Skakill
Appointment: Substitute Monitor
Location: Districtwide
Date of Commencement: September 28, 2026
Salary: $16.75 per hour

Sarah LaLonde
Appointment: Substitute Monitor
Location: Districtwide
Date of Commencement: September 22, 2026
Salary: $16.75 per hour

Chelsea Gleason
Appointment: Part-time Bus Driver
Location: Transportation
Date of Commencement: September 14, 2026
Salary: $28.56 per hour

Daniel Gowie
Appointment: Part-time Bus Driver
Location: Transportation
Date of Commencement: September 28, 2026
Salary: $32.24 per hour

Jessica Penna
Appointment: Substitute Food Service Helper
Location: Districtwide
Date of Commencement: September 28, 2026
Salary: $16.50 per hour

Nancy Battaglia
Appointment: Cafeteria Aide
Location: Pinewood Intermediate School
Date of Commencement: September 21, 2026
Salary: $16.81 per hour

Dylan Alesio
Appointment: Substitute Cleaner
Location: Districtwide
Date of Commencement: October 19, 2026
Salary: $16.50 per hour

Fall 2026 Coaches

Name	Sport	Step	Dates
Julie Rouse	Varsity Cheerleading	Volunteer	October 9-13, 2026

2026-2027 Student Teacher/Intern

Name	Bldg.	Teacher/Counselor	Dates
Isabella Burnett	High School	Mike York	10/5/26-11/20/26

2026-2027 – Recess Coordinator A2850-152-05

Name	Position	Hourly Rate
Tobey Traynam	Substitute	$7.50
Sarah Lalonde	Substitute	$7.50

2026-2027 Marching Band

Name	Staff Position	Stipend
Jason Varga	Director	$7,036
Michael Salamone	Assistant Director	$3,031
Kendra Mendoza	Caption Head - Visual	$2,598
Colin Land	Caption Head - Drill	$2,598
Jamie Roscoe	Caption Head - Music	$2,598
Jake Hatfield	Caption Head - Pit/Electronics	$2,598
Zy Epperson	Instructor - Guard	$1,515
Maeve St. Onge	Instructor - Guard	$1,515
Abi Zahn	Instructor - Guard	$1,515

Tia Tocco	Instructor - Visual	$1,515
Jenna Coutant-Walker	Instructor - Visual	$1,515
Mark Riggi	Instructor - Percussion	$1,515
Irv Jenkins	Instructor - Percussion	$1,515
Tim Mendoza	Instructor - Percussion	$1,515
Bill Hoyt	Volunteer - Visual	$0

Updated Salaries - Lifeguard A2330-162-08

Name	Updated Salary
Michael Ardito	$17.50
William Barnowski	$16.50
Margaret Collins	$20.50
Stella Cox	$17.50
Emery Dergosits	$17.00
Abigail Dusseault	$17.50
Xhayne Epperson	$16.50
Anya Hunt	$17.00
Marissa Kelly	$18.50
Grace MacTurk	$19.00
Matia Malish	$16.50
Madeline Marsello	$17.50
Madalyn McAllister	$17.00
Bridget O'Donnell	$16.50
Sophia Parker	$18.00
Kathlyn Pomeroy	$17.00
Caitlin Pusz	$20.50
Mahdi Sadiki	$17.00
Olivia Streeter	$17.00
Ava Tallman	$16.50
Finley Watson	$17.50

Updated Salary - Head Water Safety Instructor A2330-152-08

Name	Updated Salary
Margaret Collins	$24.50
Isabel Bushway	$23.50
Alicia Faucett	$27.00
Janine McCoy	$24.50
Caitlin Pusz	$23.50
Marc Vachon	$26.03

Updated Salary - Water Safety Instructor and Water Safety Instructor Aide A2330-

Name	WSI Aide	WSI
Isabelle Andriene	$18.00	$19.00
Isabel Bushway	$18.00	$19.00
Margaret Collins	$20.00	$21.00
Stella Cox	$18.00	$19.00
Alexandra Dusseault	$18.00	$19.00
Xhayne Epperson	$17.00	$18.00
Marisa Kelly	$18.50	$19.50
Grace MacTurk	$19.00	$20.00
Madeline Marsello	$17.50	$18.50
Madelyn McAllister	$18.00	$19.00
Sophia Parker	$18.50	$19.50
Kathlyn Pomeroy	$17.50	$18.50
Caitlin Pusz	$20.00	$21.00
Ava Tallman	$17.00	$18.00
Olivia Streeter	$18.00	$19.00
Finley Watson	$18.00	$19.00

Resignations

Shenesse Priest
Position: Cafeteria Aide
Effective Date: September 7, 2026

Leah Cassillo
Position: Bus Aide
Effective Date: September 23, 2026

Shaula Rickmyre
Position: Bus Aide
Effective Date: August 21, 2026

Tammy Coupas
Position: Substitute Bus Aide
Effective Date: September 21, 2026

Adjournment

MOTION made by Mrs. Montagino, seconded by Mrs. Ciampino, that the Board of Education meeting be adjourned at 7:18 PM.
The motion passed unanimously, six members present and voting.

_____

Christopher Ruberti

Clerk - Board of Education

Assistant Superintendent for Business