

Mohawk Valley School District #17

Minutes

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Ann Taylor, President
Mrs. Gina Richmond, Vice President
Mr. Carlos Farnsworth, Member
Mr. Jacob Vint, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Michael Gillmore, Member

OTHERS PRESENT: Mrs. Shanna Johnson
Mrs. Delia Salcido

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Ann Taylor called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Ann Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mrs. Ann Taylor called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Motion to approve the agenda for the meeting made by Mr. Jacob Vint, seconded by Mr. Carlos Farnsworth.

There was no discussion. The motion carried by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent.

4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No comments

5. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Matters about which the Board may engage in discussion but will take no action.

A. Administrator Reports

a) Academic Report

Mrs. Johnson stated the following:

- State Testing starts soon:
 - 5th-8th Grades take Science test before Spring Break.
 - The Writing test will take place the week after Spring Break.
 - ELA and Math testing will be in April.
 - There is a fun assembly before testing and a fun treat is handed out.
- We are looking at Reading Intervention and benchmark testing materials for next year. The benchmark testing being used is being sun-setted so we must find a new testing tool.
- The Kiwanis Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was fun. The kids had a great time. A Thank You poster will be presented to the Yuma County Board at their January 16th meeting.
- End-of-Year trips are coming up
- PreK-3d Graders will be going to Antelope for an Easter Egg Hunt on March 18th.
- The Jr. High Friendship Dance will be at MVS on March 19th. All three schools come together and have a fun day.

b) Budget Report

Mrs. Johnson stated the following:

Performance Audit Update:

- The Capital Plan is coming along. It will be brought in April for board approval.
- There are two issues with the Tax Levy:

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- 1 – Audit Finding Corrections: Must show how we have met with agencies to work towards correcting the situation. We feel there is plenty of documentation of the efforts made to meet this requirement.
 - 2 – We have not found a solution putting the tax collection into the budget.
 - Mrs. Johnson met with Senator Dunn and Republican Policy Advisor, Emma Blaire. They met with the Auditor General's Office and coordinated a meeting.
 - Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Salcido met with the Auditor General's Office Director of School Audits last week. The meeting was helpful in the fact that it clarified what needs to be done with the audit finding but did not clarify how to account for the taxes collected.
 - An email was sent to the Auditor General's Office clarifying the steps taken and the complication of returning taxes. A handout of all the steps taken plus the letter from the Yuma County Administrator and Yuma County Chief Financial Officer.
 - Another email was sent to Senator Dunn informing him that we still do not have a path to deal with accounting for the tax collection.
 - ASRS finally determined that the housing reduced rental rates are not eligible for ASRS withholdings.
 - Reduced rent for the employee was determined by ASRS that it was eligible for withholdings. The information has been uploaded into the ASRS portal for their review.
 - Tonight, the Board will vote to decide whether or not to keep housing.
 - Legal Council has drafted a letter regarding the bonuses. It will be sent to the Attorney General soon.
 - The training on Conflict of Interest should address that recommendation.
 - Mrs. Johnson reviewed the School District Spending Analysis Report for FY25 with the Board. She went over the District's spending by operational area, the instructional spending percentage for years FY01-FY25, the percentage point change in spending by area, the enrollment overview for years FY01-FY25, the average teacher salary and other teacher measures for FY25, the District average teacher salary compared to State average for FY17-FY25, the District, District peer group, and State-wide student passing percentage for FY25. During this discussion Mrs. Johnson stated that the average teacher salary for MVS is far below other Districts state-wide.
- c) **Housing Update**
Mrs. Johnson stated the following:
- Housing procedures and checklist has been updated and will need Board approval.
 - The Lease Agreement will be updated with a few minor changes. It will be brought to the April meeting for approval.
 - There was one tenant with late rent but paid within 30 days.
- d) **Facilities Update**
Mrs. Johnson stated the following:
- No Facilities Report
- e) **Water Plant Updates**
Mrs. Johnson stated the following:
- No Water Plant Report
- f) **General Items**
Mrs. Johnson informed the board of the following:
- Capital Lawsuit Status
 - On March 4, 2026, Judge Fox issued final ruling in the case.
 - The court granted the plaintiffs' request for attorneys' fees.
 - The State must create and implement a constitutional school facilities funding system.
 - The State and Special Intervenors have 30 days to file a notice of appeal.
 - Internet and e-Rate
 - Every year a network provider is procured.

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- We have had Beamspeed for several years because they have been the only provider to bid for internet in the past.
- This year we received another, less expensive quote for satellite internet through a company called Orbit Link.
- Considering getting the Star Link provider as a trial. The district would have no e-Rate reimbursement. We will be looking at the budget to see if we can purchase and pilot this satellite internet.
- The decision has been made to keep Beamspeed even though it is significantly more expensive.
- Open Enrollment Status
 - Open enrollment information was sent out to parents today. The deadline to return the forms is next week.
 - The classroom-size caps will be brought to the April meeting.
- Conflict of Interest Training
 - Mrs. Johnson shared a PowerPoint presentation that explained the following to Board Members:
 - ✓ Purpose of Conflict-of-Interest Laws
 - ✓ Arizona Conflict of Interest Law
 - ✓ What is a Conflict of Interest
 - ✓ Who Counts as a Relative
 - ✓ Substantial vs. Remote Interest
 - ✓ What Board Members Must Do
 - ✓ Examples of Conflicts for School Boards
 - ✓ What is a Remote Interest
 - ✓ Real-World Scenario
 - ✓ Consequences of Violations
 - ✓ Best Practices for Board Members
 - ✓ Key Takeaways
 - ✓ Training Video – showed YouTube video from Snowflake School District
 - ✓ Conflict of Interest Guide for Arizona School Governing Boards created by School District was shared with all Board Members.

B. Governing Board Member Comments

No comments

6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

These items are adoption of a routine nature and those that normally do not require deliberations on the part of the Governing Board. A board member may pull items, which will then be discussed and voted on separately.

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- a) February 11, 2026 – Regular Board Meeting and Executive Session Meeting

Expense Vouchers

- b) Expense Voucher 1041 \$26,586.13
- c) Expense Voucher 1044 \$85,352.78

Payroll Vouchers

- d) Payroll Voucher 1040 \$65,269.98
- e) Payroll Voucher 1042 \$63,942.93
- f) Payroll Voucher 1043 \$ 478.60

Account Reconciliations

- g) Student Activities – 2/28/2025
- h) All Accounts – 2/28/2025

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- i) Donations
 - Tax Credit
 - R. Moodie \$200
 - S. Johnson \$400
 - E. Jorajuria \$400
- j) Approval of the Following:
 - Conflict of Interest Procedures
 - Deposit Procedures
 - Updated Housing Procedures
- k) Approve Substitutes
 - Tracy Hall
 - Evelyn Magallon
 - Susie Puga
- l) Approve Soccer Coaches (Eleazar Munoz/Marixa Espinoza) and Track Coach (Tiffany Ott)
- m) Approve Letter of Resignation for Beatrice (Dolly) Kennedy

Mrs. Johnson stated that changes to the housing procedures are highlighted in yellow.

She also stated that Mrs. Kennedy is leaving and moving on to the next chapter of her life.

Mrs. Gina Richmond abstained from voting on Payroll Vouchers #1040, #1042 and #1043 due to a conflict of interest, as Mrs. Teresa Yeghoian (Mrs. Richmond's sister) was paid on those vouchers.

Motion: Mrs. Ann Taylor called for a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Carlos Farnsworth made the motion. Mr. Jacob Vint seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Mrs. Ann Taylor – Yes

Mrs. Gina Richmond – Abstained from voting on Payroll Vouchers #1040, #1042, and #1043 due to a conflict of interest, but voted to approve the remaining items on the consent agenda

Mr. Carlos Farnsworth – Yes

Mr. Michael Gillmore – Absent

Mr. Jacob Vint – Yes

Motion carried.

7. ACTION ITEMS

1. Discussion and Possible Action to Determine Whether Some or All of the District Rental Housing Units are Necessary for District Operations in Accordance with ARS §15-342(6)

Mrs. Johnson read the performance audit District and the Board recommendations to the Board.

Mrs. Johnson then reviewed all actions that had been taken by the office and Board in regard to housing:

- Monthly Updates to Boards – beginning in September 2025
- January 2026 – Housing Management Procedures Approval
- January 2026 – Presentation to Board outlining laws, expenses, and justifications.
- Presented comprehensive overview of housing revenue, expenses, and future capital needs.
- Referenced and explained performance audit findings to Board
- February 2026 – presented handout to Board: Justification for Renting District Housing to Non-Employees
- February 2026 – presented Board with all housing rental addendums
- February 2026 – Presented Board with current housing rental rates that will be discussed and approved in April 2026
- Researched Housing Liability Information
- Housing is accounting for approximately \$3,500 in premium out of the total \$38,142 for the property coverage.

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- We are making more phone calls for specific information and a declaration of our insurance.
- March 2026 – Board approval of revised Housing Procedures
 - Now includes more information about a lease renewal
 - Now includes more information about taking photos between rentals
- April 2026 – Board will set Rental Rates
- April 2026 – Board approval of updated rental agreement

Mrs. Johnson referenced the PowerPoint presentation that she had presented to the Board on January 14, 2026, reminding the Board that this had given them explanation about the District's housing including budget.

Mrs. Johnson also referenced the handout titled "School District Housing Program" that she had given the Board at the February 11, 2026, board meeting reminding the Board that she had previously presented them with justifications to keep District housing and continue renting to the public.

It was asked about the budget and funds for housing. Mrs. Johnson clarified that as previously presented to the board, the housing supports itself and the District's M&O budget is not used to maintain housing. She also reminded the board that the money generated from housing is used to maintain housing and to pay salaries. Mrs. Johnson stated that she had recently presented the Board with the improvement needs of the housing and will bring that back to the board once Arcadis finishes the Capital Plan.

A question was asked about how the District would go about closing the housing if the Board chose to do so. Mrs. Johnson reminded them that housing uses the District's water plant and therefore a separation would be tricky. A board member mentioned also that the housing is so close to the school that it would be tricky to have that as residential property not owned by the school. Mrs. Johnson reminded the board that it is easier to keep the housing in rentable condition when they stay rented rather than being empty and that the funds generated are needed to overall maintain the housing.

Motion: After discussion Mrs. Ann Taylor asked for a motion. Mr. Carlos Farnsworth made the motion to approve that all housing units are necessary for District operations and direct the Superintendent to provide regular updates regarding housing unit operations. Mr. Jacob Vint seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Mrs. Ann Taylor – Yes
Mrs. Gina Richmond – Yes
Mr. Carlos Farnsworth – Yes
Mr. Michael Gillmore – Absent
Mr. Jacob Vint – Yes

Motion carried.

8. FUTURE ITEMS

- Next Board Meeting – April 8, 2026 – Regular Board Meeting at 5:45 pm

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mrs. Ann Taylor asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Gina Richmond made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Carlos Farnsworth seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.

A copy of the agenda background material provided to the Governing Board members (with the exception of material relating to possible executive sessions) is available for public inspection at the District Office, 5151 South Avenue 39E, Roll, Arizona.

Dated this 12th day of March 2026
Delia Salcido, Governing Board Secretary

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Designated Board Member

Date

Delia Salcido, Board Secretary

Date