

MOUNTAINSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

February 25, 2020



This newsletter provides a monthly summary of discussions and actions taken at the Mountainside Board of Education meetings.

These are not the official minutes. Please check our website for the official minutes and additional information.

Our meetings are recorded and can be viewed on our website or on Channel 35.

Mountainside School District Board of Education

James Ruban, Jr. (President), Dana Guidici Pietro (Vice President)
Bill Dillon, Dante Gioia, , Jordan Hyman,
Candice Schiano, Carmine Venes

Administrative Team

Janet Walling, Superintendent of Schools
Raymond Slamb, Business Administrator
Kimberly Richards, Principal - Deerfield School
Suzanne Jenks, Principal – Beechwood School
Sheri Rouleau, Supervisor of Special Services

ACTION ITEMS	ACTION TAKEN
Approval of Minutes	<p><i>BOE approved minutes for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 21, 2020 Regular and Executive Sessions
Superintendent's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Walling introduced Mrs. Jenks who presented a "Spotlight on Beechwood"; She mentioned the district's Sustainable Jersey for Schools recertification initiative and receipt of a \$2000 grant for refillable water bottle stations in BW; She thanked ExxonMobil for a \$500 grant for DF robotics; She shared grant ideas with the Watts Foundation and is awaiting feedback; Mrs. Walling noted the 2020-2021 school calendar was being presented for approval at tonight's meeting, and pointed out some highlights. Mrs. Walling met with a Special Ed. Parent Advisory Group regarding input & collaboration with local schools.
BH Liaison Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Gioia reported that BH started live streaming BOE meetings; He mentioned their Strategic Plan for the next 5 years, includes full day kindergarten; GL wants to increase AP course engagement and BH wants to incorporate SEL lessons from guidance counselors. BH is moving to paperless BOE mtgs/board office; September referendum expected to update the media center and other projects.
Administration	<p><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HIB incidents dated 12/20/19 and 2/7/20; participation in Sustainable Jersey for Schools initiatives, certification & establishment of a Green Team; SEMI waiver; Student Safety Data System Report; Memorandum Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials; Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklist SOA; 2020-2021 School Year Calendar; Beechwood and Deerfield January 2020 Safety and Security Drills.
Budget and Finance	<p><i>BOE approved:</i></p> <p><i>As certified by the Board Secretary:</i></p> <p>Budget transfers for January; Payment of the Bill List; Reports of the Board Secretary January 2020.</p> <p><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The District to enroll and participate in the National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance; Coordinated Transportation Services Agreement with UCESC for 20-21 SY; Stipulation of settlement agreement; Agreement with BH Board of Ed. for a tuition credit adjustment; Annual contract with SchoolMessenger effective July 1, 2020 for \$2,650; Acceptance of Sustainable Jersey for Schools grant of \$2,000 to purchase refillable water bottle stations at BW; Acceptance of ExxonMobil grant of \$500 for robotics; Building request for Actor's Camp during the summer of 2020 and payment of \$8,655.68; Tuition rate of \$7,500 for 5 full days per pupil for non-disabled pupils in its preschool program for the 20-21 SY; Agreement with Progressive Therapy of NJ to increase BCBA services for 2 additional hours per week for the remainder of the 19-20 SY; Special Education placements; School District Travel.

Personnel	<p><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, BOE approved:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acceptance of the resignation of Rachel Kirson, effective March 15, 2020; Appointment of Antonio Cordero to position of night custodian at annual salary of \$35,048, prorated, effective March 2, 2020 pending paperwork; Increased hours for Elizabeth Carpenter, paraprofessional, for Mon-Wed 2 hrs./day effective March 2 through June 18, 2020; Dana Peterson, Orton Gillingham Instructor for student #2730742209 for up to 2 hrs./week, at rate of \$100/hr., from February 24-June 18, 2020; Jared Rosenblum to stipend position of Musical Play Choreographer in the amount of \$524.59; Addition of Jamie Pereira to the 19-20 sub nurse list; Addition of Rosemarie DeSimone to the 19-20 substitute list; Union County College students, Steffany Gamonal, Jessica Negrón and Marsha St. Val, to complete 50 observation hours; List of staff to write curriculum at a rate of \$40.85/hr. for the remainder of the 19-20 SY; Appointment of Christina Borris to p/t Speech-Language Therapist position at a salary of \$22,512 (40% of \$56,280), Step 1 MA, effective March 16 to June 18, 2020, pending paperwork. 															
Curriculum	<p><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, BOE approved:</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="370 667 1531 1066"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Destination</th> <th>Grade</th> <th>Teacher in Charge</th> <th>Estimated Cost</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3/20/20</td> <td>Hillside Community Food Bank</td> <td>6-8 Student Council</td> <td>Chan & McGarrity</td> <td>\$360.00 - bus pd. by Student Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5/7-5/8 2020</td> <td>Washington, DC</td> <td>8</td> <td>Young</td> <td>\$9,000 – pd. by BOE \$3,576 – pd. by PTO \$439/per student \$489/per chaperone \$2,000 – school photos \$5,500 – yearbook Total: \$53,574</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	Destination	Grade	Teacher in Charge	Estimated Cost	3/20/20	Hillside Community Food Bank	6-8 Student Council	Chan & McGarrity	\$360.00 - bus pd. by Student Council	5/7-5/8 2020	Washington, DC	8	Young	\$9,000 – pd. by BOE \$3,576 – pd. by PTO \$439/per student \$489/per chaperone \$2,000 – school photos \$5,500 – yearbook Total: \$53,574
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Policy	<p><i>BOE had the first reading of the following policies:</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="370 1129 1494 1171"> <tr> <td>8600</td> <td>Student Transportation</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>BOE had second reading and adoption of the following policies:</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="370 1245 1494 1287"> <tr> <td>7440</td> <td>School District Security</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> </table>	8600	Student Transportation	Revised/Mandated	7440	School District Security	Revised/Mandated									
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Old Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 															
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County School Boards Assoc. delegate, Mr. Venes, attended a county meeting which discussed a policy limiting FB posting after hours, Donaldson hearings and the right to a public meeting, May 15th contract renewal deadline and consolidation of K-8 districts. 															
Committee Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTO liaison, Dr. Guidici Pietro reported that 100% of proceeds from events go back to our schools, noting last year PTO funded new lighting in DF and a Chromebook cart for BW. Spring Fling on March 20th, basket donations due by March 1st. Health & Wellness Chair, Dr. Guidici Pietro, noted our Green initiative, commented on nutrition, the lunch menu and student feedback. She noted the SEL program is doing well. Borough Council/Legislative liaison, Dr. Guidici Pietro spoke about Mountainside's 125th anniversary and student involvement, more information to come. Budget and Finance chair, Mr. Gioia, mentioned there are typical challenges, including healthcare costs. Preliminary budget presentation will be at the next BOE meeting. Personnel/Negotiation chair, Mr. Gioia, reported on the process to review for tenure. Grants/Alternate Funding chair, Mr. Gioia, talked about looking for additional local grants and the importance of grants to our district, pointing to the school gardens and other projects supported this way. Library Liaison, Mr. Hyman, reported the book sale is March 12th, volunteers needed, donations accepted starting March 7th. Boutique Jewelry sale is May 1st. Library offers Guggenheim and Stickley Museum passes, and there are 20 new computers. 															

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum chair, Mrs. Schiano, reported there are many revisions needed, that will take many hours, but we have plenty of teachers willing to be involved in the process, as approved tonight. • Strategic Planning chair, Mrs. Schiano, reported the district continues to implement goals and report on progress. Mrs. Walling discussed the progress of the SEL program. • Community Outreach chair, Mr. Hyman, mentioned there is positive momentum with newsletters, social media and weekly updates. There is close collaboration with Mountainside and BH. There may be a communication survey sent out to families to gather information to improve our communication further.
Public Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

Our website: www.mountainsideschools.org

Please contact the office of the Mountainside Board of Education for additional information or if you have any questions: [908-232-3232](tel:908-232-3232).