



Mountainside Board of Education

Meeting Highlights

March 16, 2021

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.

Mountainside School District Board of Education

James W. Ruban, Jr. (President), Dana Guidici Pietro (Vice President)
Bill Dillon, Jordan Hyman, Vivian Pupo
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	<i>BOE approved minutes for:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">February 23, 2021 Regular and 1st and 2nd Executive Sessions
Superintendent's Report	<p>Mrs. Walling presented Curriculum Alignment Between BHPS and Mountainside, with Dr. Varley, Mrs. Kopacz, Mr. Ziobro, and Mrs. Crisafulli. Several board members commented on the hard work and positive changes this articulation is having in both districts. Board members asked about metrics used to track progress and early examples of benefits, to which the presenters responded. Beside the areas of study included now (Math, LAL, Social Studies, Science and Spec. Ed.), a board member asked if languages will be included in the future, to which the panel responded.</p> <p>Mrs. Walling provided district updates, noting today as the 1 yr. mark since the pandemic shut down schools. She thanked our community, board and staff for coming together in this difficult year and that our thoughts are with families who have experienced hardships or loss during this time. She noted the calendar and budget reflect reopening to a full day format in September, as long as it's within the health guidelines. She thanked Laura Madden for assisting over 20 staff to find vaccine appointments. We are looking forward to spring events, such as baseball/softball, Mr. Rosenblum's outdoor play & a remote robotics club which will occur within the gathering guidelines in place. Mrs. Richards is looking into opportunities for 8th grade celebrations & pool party, as the DC trip is cancelled. Mrs. Walling reminded everyone we are still in the "orange" level with concerns of new variants, so please remain careful and continue to follow health protocols (masks wearing, social distancing) for everyone's safety. She thanked the administration interns for their work to identify revised qualification measures for the Gifted & Talented program. Lastly, Mrs. Walling noted the Beechwood Principal search is underway, with the ad closing tomorrow. She outlined the next steps and process to review over 70 applications and begin interviews.</p>
Business Administrator's Report	<p>Mr. Slamb presented the Preliminary Budget for the 2021-2022 School Year. He answered several questions from the Board, and noted he will be submitting the budget to the County Superintendent for review. Mr. Slamb mentioned the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II projected allocations are \$247,000 for general ESSER II, \$25,000 for Learning Acceleration, and \$45,000 for Mental Health Support and Services, for which the district will apply.</p>
BH Liaison Report	<p>Mr. Hyman reported that the Curriculum Alignment presentation was also shared at the last meeting and the BH Board is thrilled with the efforts. The Chief Academic Officer presented Linkit. Mr. Hyman provided an update on the Diversity Taskforce, noting 13 volunteers were selected out of 60 applicants. They will meet regularly and develop plans and metrics. Mr. Hyman reports that although she stated it is a high goal, Dr. Varley is hoping to return to full days this year. Also, the district will have an all remote week following spring break. He noted seniors returned with no cohorts, with other grades returning Apr. 12th. He touched on the return of volleyball and wrestling on Mar. 1st. GL will allow students to play winter and spring</p>

	sports this year. GL is allowing two parents or guardians at games and cheerleaders have been able to attend basketball games and do halftime routines. New music club met March 1 and the Technology Students Association and Science Olympiad are preparing for State competitions in the next couple of weeks.		
Administration	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent's recommendations on HIB incidents dated 2/28/21 and 3/3/21; 2021-2022 School Year Calendar; BW & DF February safety and security drill reports. 		
Budget and Finance	<i>BOE approved:</i> <i>As certified by the Board Secretary:</i> Revised Budget transfers for January; Revised Reports of the Board Secretary for January; Budget transfers for February; Payment of the Bill List; Report of the Treasurer of School Monies for February 2021; Reports of the Board Secretary for February 2021. <i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tentative budget for 21-22 SY; Cooperative agreement with BH for middle school wrestling program; Durham School Services to provide spring sports transportation; Amended Independent Contractors/Physicians/Agencies list for 20-21; School District Travel. 		
Personnel	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, BOE approved:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended FMLA leave for Tom Wise through 5/7/21; Extended appointment of Isaiah James as Music Leave Replacement through 5/11/21; Appointment of Nick Lurie to long-term substitute effective 2/25/21-6/18/21; Addition of Laura Zimmerman to 20-21 substitute list, pending paperwork; Resignation of Susan Montesano, paraprofessional, effective 3/29/21; Stipend Positions. 		
Policy	<i>BOE had the first reading of the following policies:</i>		
	R 1642	Earned Sick Leave Law	Revised/Mandated
	P1643	Family Leave	New/Mandated
	P 7425	Lead Testing of Water in Schools	Revised/Mandated
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	<i>BOE had the second reading and adoption of the following policies:</i>		
	Bylaw 0145	Board Member Resignation and Removal	Revised/Mandated
	P 2431	Athletic Competition	Revised/Mandated
	R 2431.1	Emergency Procedures for Sports and Other Athletic Activity	New/Mandated
	P 4125	Support Staff Members	Revised/Mandated
	<i>BOE abolished the following policies/regulations:</i> P3431.3, P4431.3, P/R 7430, P2415.01, P 2415.03		
New Business	<u>Library Liaison</u> , Mrs. Pupo attended a meeting on 3/15, noting a new website will be up April 5th and a possible reopening on April 12th. Virtual programs are being offered by Friends of the Library - March 16th, History of NJ Shore; March 30th at 7pm, NJ State Parks; April 13th at 7pm, Why Gap Years Matter More Than Ever. To attend email info@mountainsidelibrary.org . <u>PTO Liaison</u> , Dr. Guidici Pietro reported Parent Education Night was very informative. They are hoping upcoming activities can take place. <u>Senior Liaison</u> , Mrs. Pupo spoke with Kim Moriak and discussed ideas on how students can work with seniors. Hoping to have updates on opportunities.		
Committee Reports	<u>Budget and Finance</u> : Met on Friday March 12th. Mr. Dillion reported they reviewed the budget and were supportive of budget recommendations. He thanked Mr. Slamb for his hard work on the presentation and for taking the time to walk committee members through budget information and for being available to answer questions.		
Public Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 		

Our website: www.mountainsideschools.org

Please contact the office of the Mountainside BOE for additional information or questions: [908-232-3232](tel:908-232-3232).