

Mountainside Board of Education

Meeting Highlights

May 9, 2023



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
 Vivian Pupo (President), Dana Guidici Pietro (Vice President)
 Bill Dillon, Michael Goodwin, Jordan Hyman,
 Candice Schiano, Carmine Venes

Administrative Team
 Janet Walling, Superintendent of Schools
 Steven Robinson, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary
 Suzanne Jenks, Principal – Deerfield School
 Jessica Vierschilling, 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"> April 18, 2023 Regular Session April 18, 2023 Executive Session
Correspondence	none
Public Participation	none
President's Report	none
Superintendent's Report	Mrs. Walling and the Board honored 5 retirees with a presentation and awards for their dedication to Mountainside Schools. Mrs. Walling reported on the Anti-Bullying Self-Assessment scores as required, and the areas that are considered when analyzing our school culture. She highlighted some of the upcoming end-of-year activities happening in both schools. She also mentioned the various recent appreciation days for teachers, nurses, paraprofessionals, and administrative assistants and thanked them all for their efforts. Mrs. Walling proudly noted that Mountainside was in the top 10 in NJ, and #1 in Union County for a comparison of schools which was based on NJSLA growth and other areas. Finally, she introduced Mrs. Vierschilling, who presented a "Year-in-Review" for Beechwood. She touched on all of the great initiatives and work happening in Beechwood over the past year.
Business Administrator's Report	Mr. Robinson introduced Steve Gannan who presented a brief overview of the audit. The board asked a few questions that Mr. Gannan and Mr. Robinson addressed. Mr. Robinson mentioned that the demographic study report was completed. He noted there will be a brief presentation on those findings at the June meeting.
BH Liaison Report	Mr. Hyman reported from the 4/27 meeting the following: AP exams are underway at GL, there was a presentation from Environmental Club, Teacher of the Year updates, other clubs and winter sports champions were honored. There was a budget discussion and the revised budget passed including many cuts and various increases in costs like sports fees. The GL Assistant Superintendent retired, and there is a new reorganization of the administrative structure. The next meeting will be on 5/11.
Administration	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Holidays for Administrators and Secretaries for 23/24 SY; Holidays for Maintenance Dept. for 23/24 SY; Lead Testing Program SOA for 22/23 SY; April BW/DF safety and security drill reports; BW/DF Bus Evacuation Drill reports.
Budget and Finance	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Payment of the Bill Lists; FY 21/22 audit and submission to ACFR; FY 23/22 Corrective Action Plan; Watts Foundation donation of \$1,500 for DF Robotics; Agreement with IMAC as State Health Benefits Consultants from Jan. - Dec. 2023 for \$30,000; Agreement with BrightStar Care for nursing services; Agreement with Tri-County Behavioral Care for counseling services 2 days/wk. for the 23/24 SY in the amount of \$60,000; Agreement to participate with ACES NJSBA Cooperative

	Pricing System; Agreement with Next Step Pediatric Therapy for PT services and evaluations for ESY and the 23/24 SY; an addition to the Independent Contractors/Physicians/Agencies for the 22/23 SY; Agreement with Trinitas for OT services for ESY; School District Travel/Professional Development; Agreement with G2 Athletics, LLC for a 3-day sports camp at BW from 6/21-23 at a cost of \$825 as Tier 6 per Policy 7510.		
Personnel	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> List of certificated tenured and non-tenured personnel for 23/24 SY; List of secretaries and custodians for 23/24 SY; Request for unpaid Family Leave for Cory Berger from 10/2-12/22 2023; the resignation of Bruce Littinger Special Ed. Consultant LLC effective immediately; Appointment of Stefanie Cuccio as 1st Gr. Teacher for the 23/24 SY; Appointment of Sarah Geller as Special Ed. Teacher for the 23/24 SY; Appointment of Madison Phillips as 3rd Gr. Teacher for the 23/24 SY; Appointment of Murial Maloney as 4th Gr. Leave Replacement Teacher from 5/15-6/20 2023; Appointment of Mara Hermelee as School Social Worker Leave Replacement from 5/15-10/26 2023; Re-appointment of April Lachica-Campos as Kindergarten Leave Replacement from 9/5-11/20 2023; the resignation of Christine Zagami, Library Asst., effective 6/12/23; Mara Hermelee for CST summer work at \$44/hr., NTE 50 hours; Stipend for Dan Kessler as 8th Gr. Trip Chaperone at \$265, and to rescind Corrin Lavery as Chaperone previously approved on 1/31/23; Additions to the Substitute Teacher List for 22/23; Appointment of Lori Topel as Summer Learning Academy Organizer at a rate of \$44/hr, NTE 20 hrs.; Appointment of Kylie Beirne to Special Ed. Teacher for the 23/24 SY.		
Policy	<i>BOE had the first reading of the following policies/regulations:</i>		
	P 6112	Reimbursement of Federal and Other Grant Expenditures	Revised/Mandated
	P 6115.04	Federal Funds - Duplication of Benefits	New/Mandated
	P 6311	Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants	Revised/Mandated
	R 8420.2	Bomb Threats	New/Mandated
	R 8420.7	Lockdown Procedures	Revised/Mandated
	R 8420.10	Active Shooter	New/Mandated
	<i>BOE had the second reading and adoption of the following policies/regulations:</i>		
	P 5305	Health Services Personnel	Revised/Mandated
	P 5308	Student Health Records	Revised/Mandated
	P 5310	Health Services	Revised/Mandated
Old Business	none		
New Business	none		
Committee Reports	Mr. Dillon commented that the Budget & Finance/Buildings & Grounds Committee met to look at the audit in detail, and they are in agreement with its findings as approved tonight.		
Public Comments	none		

Our website: www.mountainsideschools.org

Please contact the office of the Mountainside BOE for additional information or questions: 908-301-9104