

Mountainside Board of Education

Meeting Highlights

April 30, 2024



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
 Dana Sullivan, 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
Public Budget Hearing	Mrs. Sullivan presented the final 24/25 budget. The board asked some questions and discussed 2% cap information. Mrs. Walling noted the district was strategic and thoughtful about what cuts need to be made, and what areas would be part of the second proposal.
Public Participation	A member of the community asked questions about cuts, transportation costs, and state aid. Mrs. Walling and Mrs. Sullivan responded.
Approval of Minutes	<i>BOE approved minutes for:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 19, 2024 Regular Session • March 19, 2024 1st and 2nd Executive Sessions
Correspondence	none
President's Report	Mrs. Pupo thanked community members for coming out for the first two Strategic Planning meetings. She wished students good luck with NJSLA testing..
Superintendent's Report	Mrs. Walling noted NJSLA testing is in full swing, she thanked staff, especially Mrs. Goldbeck and Mrs. Crisafulli as our testing coordinators for their preparation for it. Strategic Planning meeting outcomes are posted on our website. She noted class trips have been happening in several grades. The district is celebrating staff appreciation, and administrators provided an ice cream truck as a treat. She recommended to the board that summer hours be fixed to Mon-Thur and closing district offices on Fridays.
Business Administrator's Report	none
BH Liaison Report	Mr. Hyman reported from the last 4 meetings. On 4/10, the board interviewed 3 more superintendent search firms. On 4/15, they discussed interactive Zoom BOE meetings; approved RFP for new law firm; interviewed interim superintendent candidates. On 4/18, they noted start of final MP, NJSLA testing, AP exams; Daffodil Art project, Spring sports updates, recognized winter sports winners; Committee met about field usage, field lights, press box, and girls locker room needed improvements. Rob Nixon was extended as acting superintendent through 5/27. Snow give back days were decided, further discussion about piloting a program for interactive Zoom BOE meetings. They selected NJSBA as superintendent search firm. On 4/24, there was public feedback on the budget. Next meeting will be on 6/10. Mr. Dillon asked about considering a partnership with BH if there is interest for boys middle school volleyball in the future.
Administration	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> HIB Report affirmed; 23/24 calendar revised with snow give back days; BW/DF Mar. drills; BW/DF Bus Evacuation drills.
Budget and Finance	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Budget transfers for Mar. 2024; Payment of the Bill Lists; Board Secretary Report for Mar; final 24/25 SY budget; Contract with Custom Computer Specialists for network switches and wireless access points; acceptance of a grant for ACSERS; Agreement with Solutions Architecture for the 24-25 SY;

	Coordinated Transportation Services with UCESC and MUJC for 24/25 SY; Student Transportation Contract Renewal with Durham for 24/25 SY; annual fee for Subscription Busing for SY 24-25 at \$725; Dr. Ronald M. Frank to provide School Physician Services for 24/25 SY; 12-month agreement with BrightStar Care for nursing services; Amendment of the settlement agreement with respect to student #6526072804; Educational Data Services, Inc for 24/25 SY; Contract with R&L DataCenters, Inc., for payroll and related services; JAG Consulting, LLC. for technology services; School District Travel/PD.		
Personnel	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Retirement of Thomas McGowan, Custodian, effective 7/1/24; Extended LOA for Nicole Wong until 5/17; Extend LTS Kirsten Post until 6/19/24; medical leave of absence for Employee #90247511; medical leave of absence for Employee #90163080; Adjusted days for paras Lydra Shehu and Teri Schrul; G. Elliott added to sub list; temporary custodians C. Williams and A. Negron for summer; Summer Learning Academy staff; notification to take class and tuition reimbursement for Paige Primmer; 8th Grade Trip Chaperone list; CST members for summer work; ESY staff; Resignation of M. Nacci, paraprofessional, effective 5/30/24.		
Curriculum	Field Trips as detailed to the board.		
Policy	<i>BOE had the first reading of the following policies/regulations:</i>		
	P 2411	Guidance Counseling	Revised/Mandated
	P 2423	Bilingual Education	Revised/Mandated
	P 2431.4 R 2431.4	Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries	Revised/Mandated
	<i>BOE had the second reading and adoption of the following policies/regulations:</i>		
	P 1140	Educational Equity Policies/Affirmative Action	Revised/Mandated
	P 1523	Comprehensive Equity Plan	Revised/Mandated
	P 1530	Equal Employment Opportunities	Revised/Mandated
	P 1550	Equal Employment/Anti-Discrimination Practices	Revised/Mandated
	P 2260	Equity in School and Classroom Practices	Revised/Mandated
	P 5750	Equitable Educational Opportunities	Revised/Mandated
Old Business	none		
New Business	none		
Committee Reports	Mr. Hyman noted that he's been pleased with the Strategic Planning meetings, attendance, and participation. Mr. Dillon agreed that community stakeholders in attendance have been encouraging. Mr. Dillon commented that the Budget & Finance committee met and discussed budget, bus fees, and coordination with MSBL. MSBL wants to go cashless at the snack shack, and pilot a plan to improve wifi there. Other board members commented that cash for younger kids is preferred.		
Public Comments	BH Board President introduced herself and looks forward to enhanced communications between our districts in the future, through their new committee.		

Our website: www.mountainsideschools.org

Please contact the office of the Mountainside BOE for additional information or questions: 908-232-8828