

Mountainside Board of Education

Meeting Highlights

December 19, 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"> November 21, 2023 Regular Session November 21, 2023 1st Executive Session November 21, 2023 2nd Executive Session
Correspondence	none
Public Participation	none
President's Report	Mrs. Pupo thanked outgoing BA Steven Robinson, Educators of the Year, & retiree Denise Barone.
Superintendent's Report	Mrs. Walling thanked retiree Denise Barone. She recognized the Educators of the Year. Then thanked Mr. Robinson for his work over the past 2 years.. She is looking forward to working with Mrs. Sullivan. She thanked the district for donations for our Angel Tree, and care packages for the needy. Basketball season, after school activities, and the school play are in full swing. Mrs. Pupo noted the excellent winter concerts, and Mrs. Walling thanked Mr. Wise, Mr. Rosenblum, and Mr. Stasio for technical support. She circled back to a report that Mr. Dillon asked about last month, and questioned inaccurate data regarding school ranking.
Business Administrator's Report	Mr. Robinson met with the incoming BA and is confident in her taking on this role for the district. They discussed the budget calendar and state funding issues.
BH Liaison Report	Mr. Hyman thanked Mr. Robinson for the stability he brought to our district as BA. He reported from the last BH meeting on 12/14, giving winter sports and other extracurricular activities updates. He noted 2 outgoing BOE members and 2 new classes at GL in the fall. BH purchased new transportation software. They approved 5 Board goals and an action plan.
Administration	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved for the 23/24 SY</i> Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Plan; BW/DF Nov. drills.
Budget and Finance	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Budget transfers for Nov 2023; Payment of the Bill Lists; Board Secretary Report for Nov; Agreement with MUJC for transportation to Banyan, Newmark Grammer and High School for the 23/24 SY & ESY; Joint Transportation Agreement with Garwood for the 23/24 SY & ESY; Acceptance of Watts grant of \$26,862; School District Travel/PD.
Personnel	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved for the 23/24 SY:</i> Appointment of Dana Sullivan as Interim BA/Board Secretary; Educators and Staff of the Year; Revised appointments of leave replacements; Acceptance of resignation of B. Higinbotham; Notification to take classes from Jen Smith for 3 credits at TCNJ; Ferdinando Melo to complete clinical hours in PE; Increase pay for substitutes without degree from \$105 to \$115 per day; Increase hourly aides from \$15 to \$15.25/hr.; Stipend Positions; Volunteers to assist school play; New substitutes; Extend unpaid family leave for Laurie Naftulin, from 2/20/24 through 4/26/24; Extend

	appointment of Grace Elliott, Leave Replacement, through 4/30/24; Appoint Monica Salamanca to 10-month Secretary at DF, beginning 1/2/24.		
Curriculum	none		
Policy	<i>BOE had the first reading of the following policies/regulations:</i>		
	P 3212 R 3212	Attendance	Revised/Mandated New
	P 4212 R 4212	Attendance	Revised/Mandated New
	P 6660	Student Activity Fund	Revised/Mandated
	<i>BOE had the second reading and adoption of the following policies/regulations:</i>		
P 1648.15	Recordkeeping for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings – COVID-19	New/Mandated	
Old Business	none		
New Business	Mr. Hyman motioned to establish a Berkeley Heights Committee ahead of the reorganization meeting. The board agreed to vote on it.		
Committee Reports	Mr. Dillon for the Budget & Finance Committee noted MSBL requested field updates. He noted upcoming elections that will be held in our buildings, in anticipation of calendar preparations. The township will soon be replacing the light source in the tennis court area. Mrs. Walling will reach out to the Curriculum Committee to meet about 24/25 calendar preparation. The Strategic Planning Committee will meet to build our next 5-year plan.		
Public Comments	None from the public. Mr. Dillon commented on the good work of the DF Select Choir and how special it is to perform at Radio City. He asked for feedback ahead of the meeting regarding budget preparation. He asked how buses fared during recent storms, to which Mrs. Walling responded. Mrs. Pupo thanked Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Walling, and the board for their work this year.		

Our website: www.mountainsideschools.org

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