

Mountainside Board of Education

Meeting Highlights

January 23, 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
Approval of Minutes	<i>BOE approved minutes for:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 19, 2023 Regular Session December 19, 2023 Executive Session January 2, 2024 Reorganization Meeting
Correspondence	none
Public Participation	none
President's Report	none
Superintendent's Report	Mrs. Walling thanked the Board, as January is Board Recognition Month. She noted benchmark testing is in progress. Mrs. Walling mentioned preparations for QSAC. Our date for visitation will be 2/22, with the County BA visiting buildings 1/29. She noted ongoing activities and reminded everyone of appropriate behavior at sporting events. Volleyball clinic with Ms. Posner has been well attended, hoping for an official girls team next year. The 24-25 calendar is on the agenda for approval.
Business Administrator's Report	Mrs. Sullivan reviewed the Budget Calendar. She commented that it was unusual that the state removed the posted calendar from their website. She is drafting the budget and noted difficulties working within a 2% cap. She and Mrs. Walling will be meeting with administrators in the next couple of weeks to prepare budgets. As of now, the budget will be approved on 3/19 since the budget is due to the county on 3/20. She plans to meet with the Finance Committee week of 2/26 for preliminary discussions, and again the week of 3/11. The public budget hearing is April 30th so our board meeting was moved to accommodate this. Mr. Hyman asked about enrollment numbers at GL, knowing it will be a tight budget regardless.
BH Liaison Report	Mr. Hyman reported from the last BH meetings on 1/4/24 reorg. and 1/18. The presidency was not decided, so the county superintendent will decide by 2/8 meeting. He provided sports and other extracurricular updates. The 2nd MP just ended. The board accepted resignation from Superintendent Varley.
Administration	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved for the 23/24 SY</i> School Board Recognition; Memorandum Agreement; 2024-2025 SY Calendar; SOA for Paras; BW/DF Dec.drills; Participation in a doctoral research project.
Budget and Finance	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Budget transfers for Dec 2023; Payment of the Bill Lists; Board Secretary Report for Dec; List of banks to act as depository for public funds and signatories; Increase in GL tuition of \$50,614.16; Agreement with Interim Healthcare for sub nurses; PEAK tuition for 24-25 as \$5,170 for 5 half days; Agreement with UCESC for transportation for the 23/24 SY; School District Travel/PD.

Personnel	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved for the 23/24 SY:</i> S. Cuccio for 90 internship hours; Notification to take classes from J. Smith for 6 credits at TCNJ; Request for tuition reimbursement from J. Smith for 3 credits and C. Berger for 12 credits; Substitutes; Stipend Positions; Staff and volunteers to assist with school play.		
Curriculum	none		
Policy	<i>BOE had the first reading of the following policies/regulations:</i>		
	P 3161	Examination for Cause	Revised/Recommended
	P 4161	Examination for Cause	Revised/Recommended
	P 5111 R 5111	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students	Revised/Mandated Revised/Mandated
	<i>BOE had the second reading and adoption 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	
Old Business	none		
New Business	Mr. Goodwin brought up a full day PEAK program for discussion. The pros and cons of the impact on the building, class structure, and need for it to be financially self-sustaining were discussed by Mrs. Walling and the Board. It will be considered when developing our 5-year Strategic Plan and when surveying the community about interest in the future.		
Committee Reports	Dr. Guidici Pietro, PTO Liaison, reminded everyone to support the PTO at the Spring fundraiser on March 14th. Mr. Dillon mentioned a Finance Committee meeting that discussed PEAK, as discussed previously.		
Public Comments	A community member spoke as a former student and asked various questions as a Seton Hall student assignment to attend a public meeting. He asked about PEAK, grants, and the 2% cap. Mrs. Walling and Mrs. Sullivan responded to his questions, and thanked him for attending. He asked about the contract with us and Berkeley Heights. Mr. Hyman responded.		

Our website: www.mountainsideschools.org

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