

Mountainside Board of Education

Meeting Highlights

June 18, 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"> Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 14, 2024 Minutes of the Executive Session of May 14, 2024
Correspondence	none
Public Participation	none
President's Report	Mrs. Pupo thanked everyone who participated in the Strategic Planning. She attended the superintendent search meeting at BH. She noted it was informative and shared the anticipated timeline. She congratulated our retirees, and wished everyone a nice summer.
Superintendent's Report	Mrs. Walling recognized Mr. McGowan and Mrs. Ciasulli and congratulated them on their retirements after 27+ years. Several board members thanked them as well. Mrs. Walling noted the many end of year activities at both schools. She congratulated the band and chorus for their awards at Dorney Park. She wished the staff a great summer. She noted ESY and Summer Learning Academy will begin July 1st, all held at Beechwood. She thanked the PTO for an amazing teacher's luncheon, and all the help with the 8th grade dance, pool party, and breakfast.
Business Administrator's Report	Mrs. Sullivan explained the requirement for "BOE Approved Contract for Chapter 47 Compliance", that lists any contracts that were awarded this past year, and may or may not be continued next year. This is informational only, no action is required.
BH Liaison Report	Mr. Hyman reported from the past 4 meetings. On 5/7 adopted the 24/25 budget; extended Rob Nixon as acting superintendent; accepted BOE president's resignation; sports updates; AP exams and NJSLA testing; updates on various clubs/activities. On 5/20, the superintendent search process and timeline was explained; ad for superintendent will be posted June 1st, and an online survey will be shared. On 5/30, they returned to interactive Zoom board meetings; extended Rob Nixon through June 30; appointed a new board member; set sports/activity fees; GL had field day and other end of year activities; Rob Nixon shared district goals; a climate symposium was held with various initiatives within the district; DEI metrics were shared. On 6/10, they extended Rob Nixon through Sept 30; recognized the baseball and softball teams; recognized Educators of the Year and 16 retirees; a presentation on PD for math; updates on Pride month and end of year activities. The next meeting will be 6/20 with a special meeting on 6/25 regarding the superintendent search.
Administration	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> HIB Reports; Superintendent to hire personnel while board is in recess; Security Drill SOA; waiver for preschool and kindergarten toilet rooms for 24-25 SY; updated Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Plan; 2024-2027 Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP); approve job description; BW/DF May drills; Sidebar Agreement between the BOE and MEA.

<p>Budget and Finance</p>	<p><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Budget transfers for May 2024; Payment of the Bill Lists; Board Secretary Report for May; Horizon to provide Dental Benefits 7/1/24 through 6/30/25; contract with YMCA of Westfield, NJ, to provide Before/After Care for 24/25 SY; BA to pay to proceed with all necessary adjustments and transfers to close the books for the 23-24 fiscal year, and to take action to open the 24/25 fiscal year; BA to make a transfer up to \$100,000 to Capital Reserve, \$100,000 to Maintenance Reserve and \$200,000 to Tuition Reserve; Tuition Agreement with UCVTS for the 24-25 SY; Appointment of Kathi Mantell from Nisivoccia, LLP as Auditor for a fee not to exceed \$48,500 for the 23-24 SY audit; Agreement with Garden State AAC Specialists, LLC for Augmentative & Alternative Communication Evaluation & Therapeutic Services for the 24/25 SY; Re-appointment of Paula Hatch, as Treasurer for 24-25, with annual fee of \$3,231; Joint transportation agreement between Springfield Public Schools and the Mountainside BOE for out-of-district transportation routes for 24-25; Parent transportation contracts for 4 Students; Membership renewal of the School Alliance Insurance Fund for three years beginning 7/1/23, and ending 7/1/26; Mountainside BOE approves the separate proposal and ballot question to be submitted to the Union County Clerk for the November 5, 2024 election; Cafeteria price list for 24-25; BOE to award a contract to Dyntek Services, Inc. for the purchase and installation of security cameras for BW and DF in the amount of \$121,905.88; BOE to award a contract to United Business Systems for lease of copiers; Agreement with The Original Hoopers, LLC for use of DF facilities for fee of \$220; BOE to enter a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission (MOESC) Cooperative Purchasing Program; Acceptance of and subsequent submission of the ESSA grant application for the fiscal year 2025 for Title IIA and Title III funds; Independent Contractors/Physicians/Agencies for 24/25; School District Travel; Spec. Ed. placements and services; Donation from Watts Foundation of \$6,000, to be used for the DF Library; Appointment of Gallagher as the Property and Liability Insurance Broker for 24/25; Bids as advertised and received by ESC of Morris County for the NJ Cooperative bid members, move to award contracts for the purchase of various items; Contract renewal with Progressive Therapy of New Jersey for BCBA services, from 7/1/24-6/30/25, at a rate of \$118/hr.</p>											
<p>Personnel</p>	<p><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Salary for Janet Walling, Superintendent, for 24-25 as \$174,615; Re-appointment of Dana Sullivan as Interim School BA and Board Secretary, for 24-25 at \$780 per diem, 2 days/wk.; Appointment of Dana Sullivan as QPA from 7/1/24-6/30/25; Appointment of Non-Affiliated Personnel, Paraprofessionals and Lunch Aides for 24/25 SY; Appointment of Jessica Milstrey as Sp. Ed. Teacher Gr 3-5 LLD; Appointment of Lindsey Reed as LDT-C; Appointment of Rebecca Penza as 4th Gr. Teacher; Retirement of Lynne Ciasulli; Resignation of D. Baroody, Spec. Ed. Teacher; medical leave of absence for Employee #10195618, beginning 6/6/24 through 6/21/24; Rescind Christine Lopez, LDT-C, for summer work as previously approved on 3/19/24; Kathy Goldbeck for summer work NTE 70 hrs; L. Reed and J. Goldstein for LDT-C summer work NTE 25 hrs. each; 24-25 Stipend Positions and amend 23-24 stipends for S. Cody/J. Smith/J. Wargaski previously approved on 9/19/23; Tuition request and reimbursement for J. Smith; Resignation of N. Wong, PE/Health Teacher; Appointment of C. Kiesewetter, as full time ABA Paraprofessional for 24/25; Appointment of Jenna Rasp, as Sp. Ed. Teacher.</p>											
<p>Policy</p>	<p><i>BOE had the first reading of the following policies/regulations:</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="349 1369 1562 1556"> <tr> <td data-bbox="349 1369 532 1430">P 3211</td> <td data-bbox="532 1369 1214 1430">Code of Ethics</td> <td data-bbox="1214 1369 1562 1430">Revised/Recommended</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="349 1430 532 1491">P 5570</td> <td data-bbox="532 1430 1214 1491">Sportsmanship</td> <td data-bbox="1214 1430 1562 1491">Revised/Recommended</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="349 1491 532 1556">P 5842</td> <td data-bbox="532 1491 1214 1556">Equal Access of Student Organizations</td> <td data-bbox="1214 1491 1562 1556">Revised/Recommended</td> </tr> </table>			P 3211	Code of Ethics	Revised/Recommended	P 5570	Sportsmanship	Revised/Recommended	P 5842	Equal Access of Student Organizations	Revised/Recommended
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<p>Old Business</p>	<p>none</p>											
<p>New Business</p>	<p>Mr. Dillon asked about trees by the township softball fields and our lease of the property to the town.</p>											
<p>Committee Reports</p>	<p>Mr. Hyman was pleased with the Strategic Planning process. Mrs. Walling mentioned she will be working with the Administrative Team over the next few months to present the 5 year goals in the fall. Mrs. Pupo attended a first meeting with the BH committee and shared some topics discussed.</p>											
<p>Public Comments</p>	<p>Members of the community spoke about concerns for their child and inappropriate racial comments that were made throughout the year. They suggested a more robust DEI and SEL education for students and the community. Another member of the community spoke and noted her family has experienced some discriminatory comments based on religious beliefs and disabilities. She appreciated the Holocaust curriculum that is in place at Deerfield and additional special events which were supported by the MEA for 7th and 8th graders this year.</p>											

Our website: www.mountainsideschools.org

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