

Mountainside Board of Education

Meeting Highlights

March 19, 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"> February 20, 2024 Regular Session February 20, 2024 Executive Session
Correspondence	none
Public Participation	none
President's Report	Mrs.Pupo attended the seniors reception for the school musical, and noted how wonderful the performance was once again this year.
Superintendent's Report	Mrs. Walling welcomed Patricia Reese and Jean Cleary from NJSBA, who provided Ethics training for the Board. They discussed the Strategic Planning process as well. Mrs. Walling congratulated everyone involved in the school musical. She noted report cards will be going out Friday for the 2nd trimester. Mrs. Walling thanked Mrs. Sullivan for her hard work and expertise working on our budget as soon as she began in January.
Business Administrator's Report	Mrs. Sullivan presented the Preliminary Budget for 2024-2025 . She and Mrs. Walling went over the details of the proposed budget, including shortfalls and reductions, as well as a second proposal question to vote on in November to enhance and reinstate some cuts necessary for this budget.
BH Liaison Report	Mr. Hyman reported from the 2/26 meeting that the board accepted the county's recommendation of Gale Bradford as board president, and voted for Dipti Khanna for VP. He noted that committees were established. The board approved the revised resignation date of Dr. Varley to 5/27. They approved increased rates for bus drivers and substitutes. He provided updates about winter sports. The board accepted the audit, reviewed bus routes, and continued to research firms for the superintendent search. Meanwhile, Rob Nixon is acting superintendent and they are accepting applications for an interim. At the 3/18 meeting they reviewed the proposed budget, noting state aid cuts, and additional staffing. He provided updates about NJGPA testing, and the spring musical. May 24 & 28 will be snow give back days. They audited utility bills. Next meeting is 4/18.
Administration	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> HIB Report; BW/DF Feb. drills.
Budget and Finance	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Budget transfers for Feb. 2024; Payment of the Bill Lists; Board Secretary Report for Feb; tentative 24/25 SY budget; Golden Arrow Bus Company to provide transportation for spring sports; Educational Audiology Resources, LLC as an Independent Contractor/Physician/Agency; G2 Athletics, LLC for two 3-Day Sports Camps at BW; School District Travel/PD.
Personnel	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Resignation of Rachel Richards, 7th Gr. Teacher, effective 7/1/24; Resignation of Michele Saltalamaccia, Para, effective 4/15/24; Revised Maternity leave for S. DeBaun from 4/15-6/20/24; Jeni Starinsky, K. Leave Replacement 4/10-6/20/24; Tuition reimbursement for Jen Smith, PEAK

	Teacher, for 3 cr. spring session; Notification to take classes from Jen Smith, for 3 cr. spring session; Tuition reimbursement for Julie Lima, Sp. Ed. Teacher, for OG class; Staff to provide supervision for school musical with stipend paid by School Musical Activities Acct; Sue Tarulli as sub. nurse; CST Staffing for meetings, evaluations, and case mgmt., effective 6/21/24-8/31/24; ESY staffing; Extension of mentorships with Jamnik/Elliott and Primmer/Starinsky;																														
Curriculum	Field Trips as detailed to the board.																														
Policy	<p><i>BOE had the first reading of the following policies/regulations:</i></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>P 1140</td> <td>Educational Equity Policies/Affirmative Action</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 1523</td> <td>Comprehensive Equity Plan</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 1530</td> <td>Equal Employment Opportunities</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 1550</td> <td>Equal Employment/Anti-Discrimination Practices</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 2260</td> <td>Equity in School and Classroom Practices</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 5750</td> <td>Equitable Educational Opportunities</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>BOE had the second reading and adoption of the following policies/regulations:</i></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>P 3324</td> <td>Right of Privacy</td> <td>New/Suggested</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 4324</td> <td>Right of Privacy</td> <td>New/Suggested</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 5116</td> <td>Education of Homeless Children and Youths</td> <td>Revised/Recommended</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to abolish the following policy:</i></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>P 5755</td> <td>Equity in Educational Programs and Services</td> <td>Mandated/Abolish</td> </tr> </table>	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	P 3324	Right of Privacy	New/Suggested	P 4324	Right of Privacy	New/Suggested	P 5116	Education of Homeless Children and Youths	Revised/Recommended	P 5755	Equity in Educational Programs and Services	Mandated/Abolish
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Old Business	none																														
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Committee Reports	Dr. Guidici Pietro, PTO Liaison, thanked everyone who supported the successful PTO Spring fundraiser. She congratulated the 4th Grade PAL Girls' basketball team for winning the championship. Mr. Dillon mentioned the Budget & Finance Committee overviewed the preliminary budget. He also invited the mayor and town council to attend our meeting to be informed about our budget. Due to a conflict, they could not attend, but would review the recorded meeting and hope to attend the April meeting.																														
Public Comments	none																														

Our website: www.mountainsideschools.org

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