

Your Vote Matters to the Mountainside School District



NOVEMBER 5TH
~ **PUBLIC QUESTION** ~



The Mountainside Board of Education has approved a separate proposal to raise \$396,000 for General Funds, which is on the upcoming ballot as a



“Public Question”.



Voting for the “Public Question” will support the children of Mountainside by reinstating teaching positions and programs that were cut due to budget shortfalls, and by adding impactful positions that will enhance the educational experience in Mountainside Schools as follows:

This proposal will

Reinstate...

- full-time STEAM teacher for Grades 3-8 at Deerfield School
- full-time Reading Specialist to support student/teacher instruction in Grades PreK-8
- before/after school academic support for students in all grades

Increase...

- mental health support for all students in Grades K-8

Add...

- full-time Gifted & Talented/Basic Skills teacher
- part-time Curriculum Coordinator to enhance program development and implementation of curriculum for all grades





HOW DID WE GET HERE?



Due to a 2% budget restriction on tax levy increases, the loss of Federal Funding through ARP and ESEA grants, and significant increases in fixed costs that go well beyond 2% annually, Mountainside Schools faced a budgetary shortfall requiring reductions to existing programs. The only way to reinstate these programs for the 2024-2025 school year and beyond, is to appeal to the Mountainside community for their support.



FINANCIAL IMPACTS ON APPROVED 24/25 BUDGET



Fixed costs that rose beyond 2% included:

- Health Benefits +8.1%
- Salaries +3.35%
- Transportation +8%
- Governor Livingston Resource Room Costs +21.6%

In addition to the ARP funding, the District also lost Title I and Title IV ESEA funding for 24-25, which equaled \$55,234 in 23-24

- This amount is primarily based on the poverty percentage for the community as reported to the USDOE.

WHY ARE WE ASKING FOR YOUR VOTE?

The ballot question is required by New Jersey law when school districts want to raise school taxes beyond the 2% property tax cap. This proposal is necessary to reinstate and expand programs and staff to support our mission of 21st Century academic excellence for the students of Mountainside.



WHAT ARE OUR GOALS?



With your support, we can implement these changes for the 24/25 school year and beyond to meet our long range goals to provide an exceptional school system that Mountainside is known for, which is crucial to the economic development and vitality of the community overall.



WHAT IS YOUR IMPACT?



Approval of this question will result in an anticipated additional tax impact of \$130 per year, or \$10.83 per month, for the average Mountainside homeowner.





WHAT IS THE IMPACT ON OUR SCHOOLS?

This question will help us to sustain our level of excellence in education as recently acknowledged by the USDOE with Deerfield's recognition as a 2024 National Blue Ribbon School.

This would allow us to continue to provide programming our students have benefited from, and expand in areas that will enhance the experience for all our teachers & students in Mountainside Schools.

INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE

Please visit our website to view additional information and our full budget presentation at www.mountainsideschools.org

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal to support our schools.

Upcoming Community Forums

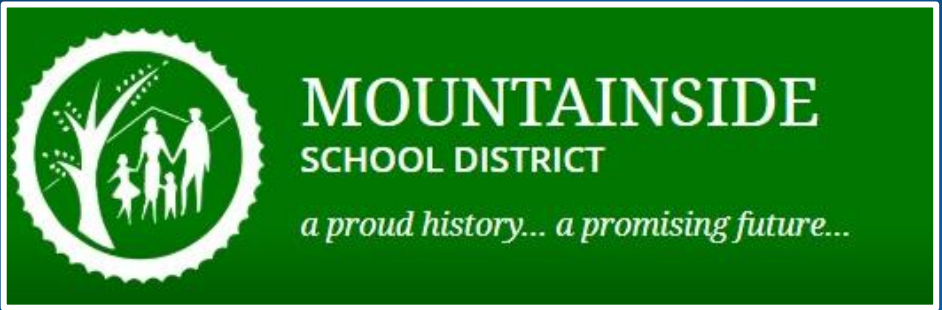
Thursday, October 17th @ 12:30 pm

Community Forum via 



Simply scan QR code for the Zoom link to join the meeting or use this link:

<https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/88595745264?pwd=HaUMlRhGVEEMpTMztHoUad6VsBlvnD.1>





MOUNTAINSIDE
SCHOOL DISTRICT

a proud history... a promising future...

**YOUR
VOTE
MATTERS**