

Mountainside Board of Education



Meeting Highlights

August 25, 2020

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 or on Channel 35.

Mountainside School District Board of Education

James W. Ruban, Jr. (President), Dana Guidici Pietro (Vice President)
Bill Dillon, Dante Gioia, Jordan Hyman,
Candice Schiano, Carmine Venes

Administrative Team

Janet Walling, Superintendent of Schools
Raymond Slamb, Business Administrator
Kimberly Richards, Principal - Deerfield School
Suzanne Jenks, Principal – Beechwood School
Sheri Rouleau, Supervisor of Special Services

Action Items	Action Taken
Approval of Minutes	<p>BOE approved minutes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 28, 2020 Regular and Executive Sessions August 10, 2020 Special Meeting
President's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Ruban thanked the board members, administration, teachers and parents for their time and effort put forth for creating the reopening plan. He stated that the collaboration with the MEA and all stakeholders will continue and the plan will be adjusted if needed.
Superintendent's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Walling reviewed and discussed the district's updated Reopening Plan, noting that it was reviewed and approved by the state and the Westfield Health Department. She noted the parent programming survey resulted in 84% wanting in-person return, and 16% opted for remote learning. She noted that information regarding transportation, arrival/departure procedures, health screenings and orientations will be sent to parents in the coming days. Unfortunately, there will be no fall sports this year due to a lack of teams from other districts as well as health and safety considerations.
BH Liaison Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GL recently decided they will be starting fully remote.
Administration	<p>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional Development SOA; Mentoring SOA; Restart and Recovery Plan; School Improvement Panel/Professional Development Committee for 20-21.
Budget and Finance	<p>BOE approved:</p> <p>As certified by the Board Secretary:</p> <p>Budget transfers for July; Payment of the Bill List; Reports of the Board Secretary for July 2020.</p> <p>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreement with School Alliance Insurance Fund; Tuition Agreement with BH for GL for \$4,721,681; Tuition Agreement with BH for GL Resource Room for \$97,577; lease agreement with Lenevo Financial Services for 85 tablets for \$1,947.44 and 155 Chromebooks for \$7,947.94; Bayada Home Health Care Contract; Westfield Area Y contract to provide after care services for 20-21; Acceptance of FY20 extraordinary

aide in the amount of \$136,103; Cafeteria price list for 20-21; Acceptance of CARES grant in the amount of \$31,464.18; Agreement for Fixed Asset Reporting services by Duff & Phelps for \$1,600 for 20-21; Shared Services Agreement with Borough of Mountainside for 20-21; Special Education placements and services.

<p>Personnel</p>	<p><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, BOE approved:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of substitutes for 20-21 SY; Resignation of Donna Antonucci, paraprofessional, effective August 13, 2020; Resignation of Marin Baltuch, paraprofessional, effective August 22, 2020; Appointment of Erin Kraven as 4th Gr. Leave Replacement; Correction of Judy Wargaski's salary Step 1 BA at a salary of \$53,916 for the 20-21 SY; Appointment of JoAnne DiPaola and Christine Kiesewetter as building aides for 20-21 SY; Re-appointment of Carolee Lavey as part-time media assistant for 20-21 SY; Return from leave of absence for employee #90194044; Notification to take fall classes (3 credits) for Zachary Worswick; FFCRA leave of absence for Christine Delaney, Christine Haas, Jessica Botkin, Susan Burke; Resignation of Miriam Grubin-Cappel, School Social Worker leave replacement effective immediately; Resignation of Gabrielle Sabony, 4th Gr. leave replacement effective immediately; Appointment of Kirsten Post to 6th Gr. leave replacement effective Sept. 1-Dec. 1, 2020; Appointment of Teresa Banks, 4th Gr. leave replacement effective Sept. 1-Dec. 1, 2020. 												
<p>Curriculum</p>	<p><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, BOE approved:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> none 												
<p>Policy</p>	<p><i>BOE had the first reading of the following policies:</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="391 1003 1542 1104"> <tr> <td>1648.03</td> <td>Restart and Recovery Plan - Full Time Remote Instruction</td> <td>New/Mandated</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>BOE had the second reading and adoption of the following policies:</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="391 1213 1542 1360"> <tr> <td>1642</td> <td>Earned Sick Leave Law</td> <td>New/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1648</td> <td>Restart and Recovery Plan</td> <td>New/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1649</td> <td>Federal Families First Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Act</td> <td>New/Mandated</td> </tr> </table>	1648.03	Restart and Recovery Plan - Full Time Remote Instruction	New/Mandated	1642	Earned Sick Leave Law	New/Mandated	1648	Restart and Recovery Plan	New/Mandated	1649	Federal Families First Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Act	New/Mandated
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<p>Old Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> none 												
<p>New Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Hyman mentioned that the library has a new director, Kathryn Brown starting Sept. 8th. Mr. Gioia congratulated the 10U baseball team for winning the championship. 												
<p>Committee Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget & Finance: Mr. Slamb reported that Governor Murphy announced the proposed state budget and there will be no additional state aid cuts at this time. 												
<p>Public Participation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several community members asked questions about the reopening plans to which Mrs. Walling responded. Topics discussed were: plans if we have to go fully remote, COVID testing, temperature checks, staff self-screening, HVAC evaluation, teacher feedback on plan, SEL lessons, screening students for core subjects, continuation of traditional events, calendar updates and outside learning plans. One community member thanked the superintendent, BOE, teachers and staff for doing an outstanding job sharing out information throughout the summer. 												

Our website: www.mountainsideschools.org

Please contact the office of the Mountainside Board of Education for additional information or if you have any questions: 908-232-3232.