

Mountainside Board of Education

Meeting Highlights

February 21, 2023



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
 Steven Robinson, 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"> January 31, 2023 Regular Session January 31, 2023 Executive Session
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff member letter dated 2/14/23
Public Participation	none
President's Report	none
Superintendent's Report	Mrs. Walling reported on the Student Safety Data System from 9/1-12/31/22, which covers HIB reports, training, and other SEL programming for staff, students, and the BOE. She reported that after approvals tonight our custodial staff will be back to a complete crew, including an available substitute. Mrs. Walling noted upcoming events, like Book Fairs, Music Man School Play in March, and noted recent Cops vs. 8th Gr. basketball game and a Coffee & Conversation with herself and school principals. It focused on Gifted & Talented programming and was well attended by about 35 people. On March 7th, Mrs. Rouleau and Mrs. Bray (BCBA) will host an event for families on coping and resilience. Finally, along with Mrs. Crisafulli, Mr. Kessler, and Ms. Phillips, she recognized the State Patriot's Pen Essay winner, 2 top students from Noetic Learning Math Contest, and Boys' Basketball Team champions for their outstanding achievements.
Business Administrator's Report	Mr. Robinson mentioned he met with the Budget & Finance Committee on 2/16, and the preliminary budget has been prepared. State aid #s will be out by 3/2, 48 hours after the Governor's address. His next meeting will be the week of 3/6, and he will be prepared to present and adopt the tentative budget at the March board meeting. Mr. Robinson recommends going forward with the Demographic Study as discussed at the last meeting. He received quotes from 2 prominent companies, and is confident proceeding with one for \$1,500. He explained they look at trends in births, home sales, past enrollment #s to help predict upcoming student numbers. Results typically are available after 60 days, with the possibility of the company presenting the results for an additional fee. He will look into this further.
BH Liaison Report	Mr. Hyman reported from the 2/9 meeting they reviewed a mid-year report on 4 district goals. Budget & Finance met and a preliminary budget will be presented on 3/13, with the final budget on 4/27. The BA, Ms. Kot, mentioned lower Mtsd. enrollment numbers as a factor in the budget. They provided several updates on various clubs and winter sports. Mr. Venes asked if there was any discussion about later high school start times as debated across the state. Mr. Hyman said it was not a topic brought up.
Administration	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Student Safety Data System from 9/1-12/31/22; Waiver to SEMI Program for 23/24 SY; Summer 2023 ESY dates M-Th 7/5-8/8/23 9-12:30; January BW/DF safety and security drill reports.

Budget and Finance	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Budget Transfers for January; Payment of the Bill Lists; Board Secretary Report for January; Intern Affiliation Agreement with Kean University from 2/1/23-12/31/25; Special Education placements and services; School District Travel/Professional Development.		
Personnel	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Resignation of Todd Erwin, effective April 15, 2023; Maternity/Disability and FMLA, and extended Leave for Courtney Yasinski effective June 5, 2023 - June 30, 2024; Appointment of Stefaine Mathis , Custodian, effective 2/22/23; Appointment of Cole and Luke Williams as summer custodial workers, for July-Aug; C. Hannan added to substitute teacher list pending paperwork and successful background check; Placement of student teacher, Scott Jonach, with Mr. Wise for Spring 2023 coursework hours; Notification to take classes for Desiree Baroody (Ganz) for Winter 2023 OG/IMSLEC courses in the amount of \$150; Appointment of Nicole Tyburski as 1st Grade long term substitute, effective 3/3-6/21/23, at rate of \$185/diem; Stipend Positions.		
Curriculum	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class trips for Grades 5, K, and 1 		
Policy	<i>BOE had the second reading and adoption of the following policies:</i>		
	P 2423	Bilingual and ESL Education	Mandated/Revised
	P 8140	Student Enrollments	Mandated/Revised
	P 8330	Student Records	Mandated/Revised
Old Business	Mr. Hyman asked if there were any updates about a digital sign for BW. Mrs. Walling said that it was on a Watts Foundation Wish List, among other things, and that she was meeting with them soon.		
New Business	Dr. Guidici Pietro reminded everyone about the PTO annual Spring Fundraiser on 3/23. Mr. Hyman asked about a co-presentation with BH on curriculum. Mrs. Walling is planning on presenting this at our 4/18 board meeting with Mrs. Crisafulli and Mrs. Cruz, and staff from Berkeley Heights, then there will be a presentation at the BH BOE meeting on 4/27. Mr. Dillon opened the discussion on our 4 unused snow days and adjusting our calendar. After a detailed discussion, the board added and approved a motion to revise the calendar to give back 2 snow days now, and will address the remaining days at the March meeting. 5/26 and 5/30 will be given back as days off.		
Committee Reports	Mr. Dillon reported that the Budget & Finance/Buildings & Grounds committee met on 2/16. They reviewed and debated various line items in the budget. They will follow up and take a closer look at transportation, Spec. Ed., GL enrollment. The board can reach out to him with any comments to provide feedback to Mr. Robinson. They also discussed cleaning up the Field Use Agreement and agreements/policies to make sure it's updated with the most current language.		
Public Comments	none		

Our website: www.mountainsideschools.org

Please contact the office of the Mountainside BOE for additional information or questions: [908-232-3232](tel:908-232-3232).