

Mountainside Board of Education

Meeting Highlights

January 31, 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"> December 20, 2022 Regular & Executive Sessions December 27, 2022 Special Meeting Regular & Executive Sessions January 3, 2023 Reorganization Meeting
Correspondence	none
Public Participation	none
President's Report	none
Superintendent's Report	Mrs. Walling recognized the Board of Education members, with January declared School Board Recognition Month, and thanked the members for their commitment to the District. She then overviewed information on her Start Strong Data Presentation with data from Fall 2022. Mrs. Walling noted our Boys' and Girls' basketball teams seasons have been exciting, with the Boy's team being undefeated. Students and faculty enjoyed the first-ever Pep Rally at Deerfield. The Pep Band and Chorus performed and grade levels had fun competitions. Spirit Night was amazing and raised over \$3,000. The Music Man play is coming soon in March. Our February meeting will recognize high scoring math students who participated in a nationwide online math competition.
Business Administrator's Report	Mr. Robinson mentioned he has begun planning next year's budget.
BH Liaison Report	Mr. Hyman reported from the Jan. 6th Reorganization meeting when 3 new board members were sworn in. The Jan. 19th meeting provided various sports updates, Robotics placed 3rd out of 19 in competition, Math League competed. There is a new Drum Circle performing in early spring, Eastern European Culture Club collected for Ukraine; Winter formal took place; Girls' Volleyball honored for making it to state finals; Next meetings, 2/2 for board training and 2/9 regular meeting.
Administration	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> School Board Recognition Month; 2023-2024 School Year Calendar; SOA Regarding Use of Paraprofessional Staff for 22/23 SY; December BW/DF safety and security drill reports.
Budget and Finance	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Budget Transfers for December; Payment of the Bill Lists; Board Secretary Report for December; Valley Bank to act as depository for public funds noting various accounts and signatories; PEAK Preschool Tuition rate for 23/24 SY in the amount of \$4,700 for 5 half day sessions; Actor's Camp building use for DF from July 3-28, with a payment schedule totalling \$7,600, excluding additional overtime costs; School District Travel/Professional Development.

Personnel	<p><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Retirement of Jayne Hartnett and Kim Hain, effective July 1, 2023; Maternity/Disability and FMLA Leave for Eileen D'Antonio effective April 11, 2023 - October 27, 2023; Maternity/Disability and FMLA Leave for Colleen Laurendi effective May 1, 2023 - Nov. 1, 2023; Maternity/Disability and FMLA Leave for Stephanie DeBaun effective April 14, 2023 - Nov. 14, 2023; Z. Kermalli, S. Arroyo-Medina, J. Pires, and P. Conte added to substitute teacher list pending paperwork and successful background check; Cory Berger's notification to take classes for 2023 Spring Session, 12 credits in the amount of \$2,820; Stipend positions; J. Lima and P. Primmer to be paid with ARP funds for in-district training prep. for \$567.30 each; P. Pham, custodian transferred to DF effective 1/9/23; Gerard Carfago, custodian, resigned effective immediately; Edwin Gonzalez as substitute custodian at \$19.12/hr., NTE 25 hrs/wk., pending paperwork and successful background check.</p>												
Curriculum	<p><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class trips as follows: <table border="1" data-bbox="344 441 1534 819"> <thead> <tr> <th><i>Destination</i></th> <th><i>Grade</i></th> <th><i>Teacher</i></th> <th><i>Estimated Cost</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Hillside Food Pantry</td> <td>6-8 Student Council</td> <td>McGarrity & Keegan</td> <td>\$440 pd. by Student Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Washington, DC</td> <td>8</td> <td>Young</td> <td>\$ 9,000 - paid by BOE \$ 2,704 - paid by PTO \$ 28,400 - paid by students \$ 5,500 - paid by yearbook \$ 2,000 - paid by school photos Total: \$47,604</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<i>Destination</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>	Hillside Food Pantry	6-8 Student Council	McGarrity & Keegan	\$440 pd. by Student Council	Washington, DC	8	Young	\$ 9,000 - paid by BOE \$ 2,704 - paid by PTO \$ 28,400 - paid by students \$ 5,500 - paid by yearbook \$ 2,000 - paid by school photos Total: \$47,604
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Policy	<p><i>BOE had the first reading of the following policies:</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="344 892 1513 1096"> <tbody> <tr> <td>P 2423</td> <td>Bilingual and ESL Education</td> <td>Mandated/Revised</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 8140</td> <td>Student Enrollments</td> <td>Mandated/Revised</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 8330</td> <td>Student Records</td> <td>Mandated/Revised</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>BOE abolished the following policies:</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="344 1138 1518 1203"> <tbody> <tr> <td>P 1648.11</td> <td>The Road Forward COVID-19 - Health and Safety</td> <td>Mandated/Revised</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	P 2423	Bilingual and ESL Education	Mandated/Revised	P 8140	Student Enrollments	Mandated/Revised	P 8330	Student Records	Mandated/Revised	P 1648.11	The Road Forward COVID-19 - Health and Safety	Mandated/Revised
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Old Business	<p>Mr. Hyman was happy with the DF digital sign. Mrs. Walling hopes to eventually upgrade the BW sign as well in the future.</p>												
New Business	<p>Dr. Guidici Pietro reminded everyone of the PTO Spring Fling Fundraiser on 3/23, it's an 80's theme. Support the PTO with all proceeds coming back to our schools and students. Mrs. Pupo reported that the library has 2 new trustee members, and the library will be hosting a day of events on 2/4 from 1-4. Mr. Hyman asked if there might be a co-presentation with Dr. Varley from BH on our coordinated curriculum. Mrs. Walling will look into it. He continued the conversation about full-day PEAK, and the possibility of a demographic study for future planning. Mr. Robinson supported that idea for Strategic Planning purposes, and Mrs. Walling noted it has not been done in at least 5 years. Mr. Dillon agreed based on limited space at BW and future budgeting it was a good idea to gather data. Mr. Venes asked about adding lights in the DF parking lot, Mr. Dillon added the tennis court lights have been out of order for some time, perhaps both areas could be addressed, in conjunction with the Recreation Department. Mr. Robinson will look into this.</p>												
Committee Reports	<p>Mr. Dillon shared the Finance/Building & Grounds committee information earlier. They welcomed Mr. Goodwin to the committee at a recent meeting.</p>												
Public Comments	<p>none</p>												

Our website: www.mountainsideschools.org

Please contact the office of the Mountainside BOE for additional information or questions: 908-232-3232.