

Mountainside Board of Education

Meeting Highlights

January 21, 2025



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"> Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 10, 2024 Minutes of the Executive Session of December 10, 2024 Minutes of the Reorganization Meeting of January 6, 2025 |
| Correspondence | none |
| Public Participation | none |
| President's Report | none |
| Superintendent's Report | Mrs. Walling recognized Educators and Support Staff of the Year. She also recognized the BOE members, as Jan. is Board recognition month. Board members were provided copies of the new 5-Year Strategic Plan, which is also on our website. She noted the recent Grades 3-5 Concert, and Spirit Night on February 7th. She commented that I-Ready and Link-it benchmarking are happening now, and thanked Mrs. Goldbeck, Mrs. Crisafulli, and Mrs. Jenks for analyzing the data for driving instruction. She noted the 25/26 School Year calendar is on the agenda, which has been put together with input from the MEA, Curriculum Committee, and administration. Mrs. Walling also thanked the board and staff for their support in her retirement announcement. |
| Business Administrator's Report | none |
| BH Liaison Report | Mr. Dillon reported on the reorg. meeting where they welcomed 3 new members, but did not come to a consensus to elect a President or Vice-President. The County Superintendent will assist in the matter. They approved a calendar for 25/26. Committees will be decided once officials are in place. Regarding new business and costs of OPRA requests. They discussed policies as well. |
| Administration | <i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved for 24/25:</i> School Board Recognition Month; MOA; 25/26 SY Calendar; SOA for Paras; LLD Classroom; Dec. Drill Reports. |
| Budget and Finance | <i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Budget transfers for Dec 2024; Payment of the Bill Lists; Board Secretary Report for Dec. 2024; PEAK Tuition set at \$5,450 for 25/26 SY for 5 days/wk, half day sessions; Watts Foundation donation of \$14,000; Actor's Camp Building Use; ESCNJ for translation services; School District Travel. |
| Personnel | <i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Educators of Year; Retirement of Janet Walling effective 7/1/25; Appointment of K. Blanco, Reading Specialist; Expanded hours for K. Post to full time effective 1/27/25; Appointment of J. Starinsky as paraprofessional; Appointment of G. Rua as DF lunch aide; payment to D. Chango for 2 training days; I. Rigos to provide after school student support at rate of \$16.50/hr.; Additions to the |

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| | Substitute List; Request for tuition reimbursement for J. Smith for 6 credits; Notification to take classes from J. Smith. | | |
| Curriculum | <i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Field trips as detailed to the Board of Education. | | |
| Policy | <i>BOE had the first reading of the following policies/regulations:</i> | | |
| | P 5533 | Student Smoking | Revised/Mandated |
| | P 7441 | Electronic Surveillance in School Buildings and On School Grounds | Revised/Mandated |
| | P & R 9320 | Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies | Revised/Mandated |
| | <i>BOE had the second reading and adoption of the following policies/regulations:</i> | | |
| P 7610 | Vandalism | Revised/Recommended | |
| Old Business | Mrs. Pupo mentioned the rotating Library Liaison committee that was decided at the reorganization meeting. The Director of the Library didn't feel this was ideal and asked them to reconsider. Mrs. Schiano suggested a staff member attend meetings and report back to the board. Mrs. Walling will take a look at how to proceed and report back. Mrs. Schiano felt the board should go back to a 6:30 start for board meetings. After debating, the board took it to a vote, which passed by a 5-2 vote. | | |
| New Business | none | | |
| Committee Reports | Mr. Hyman reported on the first Send/Receive Committee meeting. Mrs. Schiano reported from the Curriculum Committee where they discussed the calendars, new hires, and Mrs. Walling's retirement announcement. The Negotiations Committee will be meeting with the MEA soon, and are feeling optimistic. | | |
| Public Comments | none | | |

Our website: www.mountainsideschools.org

Please contact the office of the Mountainside BOE for additional information or questions: [908-232-8828](tel:908-232-8828)