

Mountainside Board of Education

Meeting Highlights

September 19, 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 |
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| Approval of Minutes | <i>BOE approved minutes for:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 8, 2023 Regular Session August 8, 2023 Executive Session |
| Correspondence | none |
| Public Participation | none |
| President's Report | Mrs. Pupo welcomed everyone back and thanked the faculty for a smooth start to the year. |
| Superintendent's Report | Mrs. Walling reported on the reopening of schools and welcomed many new staff members. She mentioned Back-to-School Nights, PTO events, new curriculum, etc. She addressed transportation issues with Vo-Tech. She noted DF will be hosting Fall Field Day as a team building activity. She mentioned a Cyber Safety event for students and parents that PTO & MEF are co-sponsoring. iReady and Link-It benchmarks have begun. Clubs and activities will be starting soon. She presented the SSDS Report. |
| Business Administrator's Report | none |
| BH Liaison Report | Mr. Hyman reported from the last 2 meetings on 8/10 & 9/14. Dr. Varley & Rob Nixon reported on test results. There was a presentation from School Boards on setting Board goals and self-evaluation. They will hold a special meeting to discuss board goals. They approved the BHAA contract and open campus. He noted various retirements and new hires. The new student representative was approved, as well as various sports updates and upcoming events. He noted other state testing results, including AP statistics. They approved the tuition contracts with the send/receive agreement with Mountainside. The next meeting will be on 10/12. |
| Administration | <i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> SOA for paras; SOA for PDP; SOA for Mentoring Plan; Safety and Security Plan; Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan and Checklist; SSDS Report for 22/23 SY; Student Handbooks. |
| Budget and Finance | <i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Budget transfers for July 2023; Payment of the Bill Lists; Board Secretary Report for July; Tuition Agreement with BH/GL for the 23-24 SY in the amount of \$4,464,250; Tuition agreement with BH/GL Resource Room for the 23-24 SY in the amount of \$292,200; PTO donations of \$3,635 towards a new Deerfield sign, and \$2,000 towards landscaping; School District Travel and PD; Special Education Placements and Services. |

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| Personnel | <i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved for the 23/24 SY:</i> Appointment of Susan Browne, STEAM teacher; Desiree Baroody to provide supplemental instruction for 2 students; Annabella Ross, to be paid for her participation in a Behavioral Assessment Team meeting; Request from Kristin Eckert to extend her unpaid family leave from 1/1/24 to 6/30/24; Appointment of the following leave replacement teachers (J. DiPaola, G. Elliott, G. Karch); Increased hours for N. Crisafulli, K. Goldbeck, and S. Tighe by up to 30 min./day to assist with dismissal; Mentorships; New substitutes MaryAnn Iorio and Alexa Circelli; Laura Chiappetta and Nina Woo for curriculum writing; Stipend Positions. | | |
| Curriculum | Field trips as detailed to the Board of Education. | | |
| Policy | <i>BOE had the first reading of the following policies/regulations:</i> | | |
| | 0164.6 | Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency | Revised/Mandated |
| | P 2419 | School Threat Assessment Teams | New/Mandated |
| | P 2425 | Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program | Revised/Mandated |
| | P 5240 | Tardiness | Revised/Mandated |
| | <i>BOE had the second reading and adoption of the following policies/regulations:</i> | | |
| | P 5339 | Screening for Dyslexia | Revised/Mandated |
| | P 7100 | Long-Range Facilities Planning | RevisedMandated |
| Old Business | none | | |
| New Business | Mr. Goodwin reported highlights from the Mountainside Library regarding increased programming, attendance and new grants. They are working on a new strategic plan. Mrs. Schiano asked about K-2 winter concerts and Mrs. Walling responded. Mr. Venes asked about the purchase of a school van and Mr. Robinson responded. | | |
| Committee Reports | Dr. Guidici Pietro's PTO liaison report mentioned how to join PTO, and the many upcoming PTO Fall activities. Mrs. Walling mentioned that the 5-Year Strategic Plan ends this SY. She discussed the development of 23-24 District Goals. | | |
| Public Comments | A parent voiced his opinion and presented some information about walkability near BW. He also asked before/after care. | | |

Our website: www.mountainsideschools.org

Please contact the office of the Mountainside BOE for additional information or questions: 908-232-8828