

# MOUNTAINSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

BEECHWOOD SCHOOL - 1497 WOODACRES DRIVE, MOUNTAINSIDE, NJ 07092  
DEERFIELD SCHOOL - 302 CENTRAL AVENUE, MOUNTAINSIDE, NJ 07092

Agenda attachments available to the public and all Mountainside Board of Education policies may be accessed via the district website or viewed at the respective meeting.

[ATTACHMENTS 1/21/25](#)

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Roll Call**

Mr. Bill Dillon	_____
Mr. Michael Goodwin	_____
Dr. Dana Guidiciopietro	_____
Mr. Jordan Hyman	_____
Mrs. Vivian Pupo	_____
Mrs. Candice Schiano	_____
Mr. Carmine Venes	_____

**III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)**

Moved: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_  
RC: Dillon \_\_\_\_\_ Goodwin \_\_\_\_\_ Guidiciopietro \_\_\_\_\_ Hyman \_\_\_\_\_  
Pupo \_\_\_\_\_ Schiano \_\_\_\_\_ Venes \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Legal/Personnel

**IV. Close Executive Session and Reconvene Public Session**

Moved: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_  
RC: Dillon \_\_\_\_\_ Goodwin \_\_\_\_\_ Guidiciopietro \_\_\_\_\_ Hyman \_\_\_\_\_  
Pupo \_\_\_\_\_ Schiano \_\_\_\_\_ Venes \_\_\_\_\_

**V. Flag Salute**

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

Moved: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_  
RC: Dillon \_\_\_\_\_ Goodwin \_\_\_\_\_ Guidiciopietro \_\_\_\_\_ Hyman \_\_\_\_\_  
Pupo \_\_\_\_\_ Schiano \_\_\_\_\_ Venes \_\_\_\_\_

- ❖ 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

**VII. Correspondence**

**VIII. Public Participation - Agenda Items Only**

In accordance with Board Policy 0167, Public Participation in Board Meetings, in the event it appears the public comment portion of the meeting may exceed 30 minutes, the presiding officer may limit each statement made by a participant to three (3) minutes' duration.

**IX. President's Report**

**X. Superintendent's Report**

- ❖ Teachers, Educational Support Professionals, and Support Staff of the Year
- ❖ School Board Recognition Month
- ❖ District Updates
- ❖ 2025-2026 School Calendar

**XI. Business Administrator's Report**

**XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report**

**XIII. Administration:**

Moved: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_  
RC: Dillon \_\_\_\_\_ Goodwin \_\_\_\_\_ Guidici Pietro \_\_\_\_\_ Hyman \_\_\_\_\_  
Pupo \_\_\_\_\_ Schiano \_\_\_\_\_ Venes \_\_\_\_\_

1. **WHEREAS**, the New Jersey State Board of Education has established rigorous standards through its promulgation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, which set the expectations of academic achievement for nearly 1.4 million public schoolchildren; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey's locally elected and appointed boards of education play a vital role in ensuring that their local school districts meet state standards and adhere to state and federal education statute and regulations, with the goal of preparing all students for college and the workplace, thereby enabling them to compete in a global economy; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey's 5,000 non-partisan local board of education members and charter school trustees are public servants who dedicate their time, without pay or benefit, to the oversight of school district operations, through sound financial practices and comprehensive policies on curriculum, staffing and other areas to ensure the well-being and academic achievement of all students in the district; and

**WHEREAS**, local boards of education, in conjunction with state education officials and local educators, have built a foundation of success that has led to New Jersey's status as a leader in student achievement, as evidenced by the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores; and

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**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2025 to be School Board Recognition Month; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education recognize the contributions of our state's local boards of education to the academic success of its public school students and expresses its sincere appreciation to local board of education members for their continued focus on the achievement of children throughout New Jersey; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education encourage qualified New Jersey citizens to consider serving as members of their local school boards.

2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Memorandum Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials.
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2025-2026 School Year Calendar. (Attachment #2)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Statement of Assurance Regarding the Use of Paraprofessional Staff – 2024-2025 School Year. (Attachment #3)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to establish a new Learning/Language Disabilities Program at Deerfield School, which will be implemented in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14, as required by the State of NJ.
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools December 2024 safety and security drill reports.

**XIV. Budget and Finance:**

Moved: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_  
RC: Dillon \_\_\_\_\_ Goodwin \_\_\_\_\_ Guidici Pietro \_\_\_\_\_ Hyman \_\_\_\_\_  
Pupo \_\_\_\_\_ Schiano \_\_\_\_\_ Venes \_\_\_\_\_

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the month of December 2024. (Attachment #4)
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated December 13, 2024, through January 25, 2025. (Attachment #5)
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of December 2024 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of December 2024; and

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**WHEREAS**, the Interim Board Secretary, Dana Sullivan, certifies that subject to the approval of budget transfers appended to these minutes, payment of the claims set forth in the accompanying bill list will not result in the over expenditure of any budget line item appropriation, as modified to date set forth in the level of detail contained in the Reports of the Board Secretary for December 2024:

**RESOLVED THAT**, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the month of December 2024 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for December 2024 as submitted and certified. (Attachment #6)

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and pursuant to the authority granted by N.J.S.A. 18A: 44-4(B), the Mountainside Board of Education hereby establishes the following per pupil yearly tuition rate for non-disabled pupils enrolled in its preschool program (PEAK) for the 2025-2026 school year: \$5,450 for 5 half day sessions.
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the Watts Foundation donation of \$14,000 to be used for a poster maker, decodable books, Deerfield Blue Ribbon sign, sensitivity speaker, and Holocaust program. (Attachment #7)
6. Move to approve, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the building use request with the Actor's Camp for building use at Deerfield School from June 30th - July 26th based on Policy 7510, priority 5, and a payment schedule totaling \$8,689.10, excluding additional overtime costs that may be incurred.
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to contract with Educational Services Commission of NJ for translation services at \$116 per hour, and add them to our Independent Contractors and Physicians List for the 24/25 school year. (Attachment #8)
8. Move to approve in accordance with MBOE policy 6471, School District Travel, and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the travel, professional development requests, and related expenses itemized in (Attachment #9). This travel is deemed educationally necessary and fiscally prudent, and all travel expenditures shall be directly related to and within the scope of the staff member's current responsibilities and the district's Professional Development Plan. All reimbursements shall be made in accordance with state guidelines 18A:11-12.

**XV. Personnel:**

Moved: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_  
RC: Dillon \_\_\_\_\_ Goodwin \_\_\_\_\_ Guidici Pietro \_\_\_\_\_ Hyman \_\_\_\_\_  
Pupo \_\_\_\_\_ Schiano \_\_\_\_\_ Venes \_\_\_\_\_

*New personnel employment appointments are contingent upon the required state and federal criminal history background checks (in accordance with N.J.S.A. CH 116, P.L. 1986), required certification, and completion of employee paperwork).*

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1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to recognize the following staff members for their dedication to the students, families, and staff of the Mountainside School District. Their support, professionalism, and commitment is recognized and appreciated on a daily basis:

Beechwood School	
<b>Jen Smith</b>	Teacher of the Year
<b>Amanda Somers-Guerrasio</b>	Educational Services Professional of the Year
<b>Antonio Negrón</b>	Support Staff of the Year
Deerfield School	
<b>Christine Delaney</b>	Teacher of the Year
<b>Christina Borris</b>	Educational Services Professional of the Year
<b>Zondria Bey</b>	Support Staff of the Year

2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of **Janet Walling**, Superintendent, effective July 1, 2025, and to thank her for her service to the Mountainside School District. (Attachment #9A)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to appoint **Katherine Blanco**, to the position of Reading Specialist, at the salary of \$93,697, MA Step 17a, prorated, for the 24/25 school year. (Attachment#10)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to expand hours for **Kirsten Post**, from a part-time to full-time teacher, at a salary of \$71,298, Step 11 MA, prorated, effective 1/27/25 and for the remainder of the 24/25 school year.
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to appoint **Jennifer Starinsky**, as a paraprofessional, at a rate of \$27.34/hr., for the 24/25 school year.
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to appoint **Gina Rua**, as a Deerfield Lunch Aide, at a rate of \$15.50/hr., for the 24/25 school year.
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **David Chango**, to be paid 2 additional days for training on 12/16/24 and 12/19/24, at the per diem rate of \$190.
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **Irene Rigos**, to provide student support during after school activities, at a rate of \$16.50/hr., for the 24/25 school year.

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9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of the following to the 2024-2025 Substitute List, pending paperwork and successful criminal background check. (Attachment #11)

Name	Certification	Rate
<b>John Mucci</b>	Sub Cert.	\$115 per diem
<b>Alexa Castro</b>	Sub Cert. (pending)	\$115 per diem

10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the request for reimbursement for classes from **Jennifer Smith**, PEAK Teacher, for classes taken at TCNJ for the 2024 Fall Sessions for six (6) graduate credits in the amount of \$3,990. (Attachment #12)
11. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the notification to take classes for **Jennifer Smith**, PEAK Teacher, for classes at TCNJ for the 2025 Spring Sessions for six (6) graduate credits in the amount of \$3,990. (Attachment #13)
12. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff for 2024-2025 School Year Stipend Positions, contingent upon student enrollment for those student activities subsidized in accordance with Board Policy 2436, Activity Participation Fee Program.

Staff Member	Position	Rate
<b>Rebecca Penza</b>	Vocabulary/LAL Club (Grades 3-5)	\$36/session <i>NTE 35 sessions per grade</i>

**XVI. Curriculum**

Moved: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_  
 RC: Dillon \_\_\_\_\_ Goodwin \_\_\_\_\_ Guidicipietro \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hyman \_\_\_\_\_ Pupo \_\_\_\_\_ Schiano \_\_\_\_\_ Venes \_\_\_\_\_

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, field trips as detailed to the Board of Education.

**XVII. Policy:**

Moved: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_  
 RC: Dillon \_\_\_\_\_ Goodwin \_\_\_\_\_ Guidicipietro \_\_\_\_\_ Hyman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pupo \_\_\_\_\_ Schiano \_\_\_\_\_ Venes \_\_\_\_\_

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following policies/regulations for the first reading:

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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

2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following policies for the second reading and adoption:

P 7610	Vandalism	Revised/Recommended
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**XVIII. Old Business**

**XIX. New Business**

**XX. Committee Reports**

**XXI. Public Participation**

In accordance with Board Policy 0167, Public Participation in Board Meetings, in the event it appears the public comment portion of the meeting may exceed 30 minutes, the presiding officer may limit each statement made by a participant to three (3) minutes' duration.

**XXII. Executive Session**

Moved: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_  
 RC: Dillon \_\_\_\_\_ Goodwin \_\_\_\_\_ Guidici Pietro \_\_\_\_\_ Hyman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pupo \_\_\_\_\_ Schiano \_\_\_\_\_ Venes \_\_\_\_\_

**XXIII. Adjournment**

Moved: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_  
 RC: Dillon \_\_\_\_\_ Goodwin \_\_\_\_\_ Guidici Pietro \_\_\_\_\_ Hyman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pupo \_\_\_\_\_ Schiano \_\_\_\_\_ Venes \_\_\_\_\_