

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

October 17, 2023

MOUNTAINSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

BEECHWOOD SCHOOL - 1497 WOODACRES DRIVE, MOUNTAINSIDE, NJ 07092

DEERFIELD SCHOOL - 302 CENTRAL AVENUE, MOUNTAINSIDE, NJ 07092

For agenda attachments available to the public, please contact the Mountainside Board of Education Office at (908) 232-3232 or peruse same at the respective meeting.

Also, Mountainside Board of Education policies may be accessed via the district website.

I. Call to Order

A Regular Meeting of the Mountainside Board of Education of the Borough of Mountainside in the County of Union, New Jersey was called to order by Mrs. Pupo, at 6:31 p.m.

II. Roll Call

At roll call, the following members were present:

Mr. Bill Dillon
Mr. Michael Goodwin
Mr. Jordan Hyman
Mrs. Vivian Pupo
Mrs. Candice Schiano
Mr. Carmine Venes

Also present were Janet Walling, Superintendent of Schools and Steven Robinson, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

Dr. Dana Guidici Pietro was absent.

III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

Moved: Mr. Venes

Seconded: Mr. Goodwin

RC: Dillon - yes

Goodwin - yes

Guidici Pietro - absent

Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes

Schiano - yes

Venes - yes

WHEREAS, Section 7 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 (R.S. 10:4-13), permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting or portion of a meeting of this public body in circumstances; and **WHEREAS**, the Board must consider matter(s) involving the following:

1. Legal/Personnel matters

The disclosure of which could constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy; now

WHEREAS, the discussion of individual items to be considered by the Board in closed session may be made public once the need for confidentiality no longer exists, but the Board cannot state at the present time then that will be.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board adjourn to executive session at 6:34 p.m. to discuss the above mentioned matter to the exclusion of all others. Matters discussed may or may not be made public this evening. If an action results, it will be taken following reentry into regular session.

IV. Close Executive Session and Reconvene Public Session

Moved: <u>Mrs. Schiano</u>	Seconded: <u>Mr. Hyman</u>		
RC: Dillon -yes	Goodwin - yes	Guidici Pietro - absent	Hyman - yes
Pupo - yes	Schiano - yes	Venes -yes	

The public meeting reconvened at 7:36 p.m.

V. Flag Salute

VI. Approval of Minutes

Moved: <u>Mrs. Schiano</u>	Seconded: <u>Mr. Goodwin</u>		
RC: Dillon -yes	Goodwin - yes	Guidici Pietro -absent	Hyman - yes
Pupo - yes	Schiano - yes	Venes -yes	

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 19, 2023
- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of September 19, 2023

VII. Correspondence - none

VIII. Public Participation - none

IX. President's Report - Mrs. Pupo thanked the PTO for an outstanding Fall Festival.

X. Superintendent's Report - Mrs. Walling thanked the PTO for the well-organized indoor Fall Festival event. It was well attended, despite the poor weather. She also thanked the MEF for the Glow Ride event held recently. Week of Respect just finished up, and the Week of Violence Awareness is coming up. Students were reminded of our HIB policies, treating everyone equally and respectfully. Deerfield students and all families were part of a Cyber Safety assembly which was very informative. Beechwood had a magician assembly that discussed some of the same topics geared towards the younger age group. Mrs. Walling noted she and Mrs. Castro attended a county QSAC meeting in preparation for our QSAC audit this year. Mrs. Walling then shared state test results, starting with NJSLA. She went through Math, ELA, and Science results, comparing back to back years. She also reported on ACCESS and DLM data results. The Board commented how well Mountainside did overall as a district, especially throughout COVID times. Board members asked some questions, to which Mrs. Walling responded.

XI. Business Administrator's Report - none

XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report - Mr. Hyman reported from the last meeting on 10/12, and noted an upcoming special meeting on 11/2, and regular meeting on 11/16. He gave sports updates

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from GL, including the continuation of a hockey program, and some facilities discussions. A College and Career Fair took place in October. There was an HIB presentation, followed by a District Goals presentation.. There will be a transportation and school safety study. The school play will take place in November. BH approved a new STEAM director.

XIII. Administration

Mrs. Walling noted that in addition to monthly drills, semi-annual required bus evacuation drills were also conducted at both schools.

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Administration #1-5**

Moved: Mr. Hyman

Seconded: Mrs. Schiano

RC: Dillon -yes

Goodwin - yes

Guidici Pietro - absent

Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes

Schiano - yes

Venes -yes

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Mountainside School District Goals for the 2023-2024 school year as follows:
 - The Mountainside School District will continue to improve its ability to utilize data to inform instructional programming and implement strategies that target individual growth for all students.
 - Mountainside School District will address the social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, with an emphasis on learning core competencies, including health, wellness, and social awareness.
 - The Mountainside School District will evaluate instructional programs and support services, while analyzing the budget and various grant opportunities to determine the best approach both educationally and fiscally to continuing them upon the expiration of recent Federal Grants.
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2023-2024 Nursing Services Plan. (Attachment #2).
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2023-2024 Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklist for Beechwood and Deerfield Schools (Attachment #3).
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the annual Comprehensive Maintenance Plan. (Attachment #4)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools September 2023 safety, security drill reports, and bus evacuation drills. (Attachment #5)

XIV. Budget and Finance

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-7**

Moved: Mr. Goodwin

Seconded: Mr. Venes

RC: Dillon -yes

Goodwin - yes

Guidici Pietro - absent

Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes

Schiano - yes

Venes -yes

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1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the month of August 2023. (Attachment #6)
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated September 21, 2023, through October 18, 2023 (Attachment #7).
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of August 2023, and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of August 2023 ; and

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary, Steven Robinson, 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 August 2023:

RESOLVED THAT, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the month of August 2023 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for August 2023 as submitted and certified (Attachment #8).

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the shared services agreement for Class II Officer between the Mountainside Board of Education and the Borough of Mountainside for the 2023-2024 school year. (Attachment #9)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the acceptance of an **MEF** donation, in the amount of \$1,500, and a **PTO** donation in the amount of \$1,455, to be used for Cyber Safety Event for all parents and students in grades 3-8.
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the contract with Annie Taranto, Literacy Consultant, for professional development services, in the amount of \$11,250. (Attachment #10)
7. 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 #11). 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

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Personnel #1-7**

Moved: Mrs. Schiano

Seconded: Mr. Venes

RC: Dillon -yes
Pupo - yes

Goodwin - yes
Schiano - yes

Guidici Pietro - absent
Venes -yes

Hyman - yes

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1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of **Jeyanthi Ponnusamy**, to the position of 7th Grade Math Leave Replacement, at the salary of \$57,949, Step 1 MA, prorated, effective approximately October 30, 2023 through June 20, 2024. (Attachment #12)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the re-appointment of **Nicole Tyburski** as a leave replacement teacher for Courtney Yaskinski to provide AIM support in Beechwood and Deerfield, at the prorated salary of \$54,875, Step 1 BA, from 12/12/23-6/20/24.
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff for 2023-2024 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
Bryan Young	Girls' Basketball Coach	\$3,189 (1-2 yr. rate)
Madison Phillips	Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach	\$2,276 (1-2 yr. rate)
Ferdinando Melo	Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach	\$2,276 (1-2 yr. rate)
Taylor Donato	Art Club (Grades 3) *add'l section due to high enrollment	\$36.00/session NTE 30 sessions

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **Allison Hansen**, as a part-time lunch aide at Beechwood School, at a rate of \$15/hour, for the 23/24 school year, pending successful criminal background and paperwork. (Attachment #13)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of the following to the 2023-2024 Substitute Teacher List, pending paperwork and successful criminal background check. (Attachment #14)

Substitute's Name	Certification	Rate
Alicia Lang	Sub Cert. 1/31/24 with degree	\$115/day
Heather Kronengold	Teacher Cert	\$125/day
Jack Sildat	Sub Cert 9/25/28 w/degree	\$115/day
Allison Saia	Sub Cert 2/5/26 w/ degree	\$115/day
Carla Digiorgio	Teacher Cert	\$125/day
Ferdinando Melo	Sub Cert (pending)	\$105/day

6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff members to serve as mentors during the 2023-2024 school year:

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Staff Member	Assignment (dates are approx.)	Fee Amount
Julie Lima	Nicole Tyburski 30 weeks: 10/9/23-5/3/24	\$1,000 (Limited CE)
Lori Topel	Caitlyn Kube **30 weeks: 10/2/23-4/26/24	\$550 (CEAS)
Natalie Crisafulli	Jeyanthi Ponnusamy 30 weeks: 11/13/23-6/7/24	\$1,000 (Limited CE)

*** this is updated for 30 weeks; previously approved on 9/19/23 for 15 weeks.*

7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the placement of **Gavin Jakositz** with Axl Hirsch from 10/30/2023 - 01/30/2024 for student teaching field experience hours required for Western Governors University towards his Bachelor of Science, Mathematics Education (Middle Grade degree. (Attachment #15)

XVI. Curriculum

Moved: Mr. Venes

Seconded: Mr. Hyman

RC: Dillon -yes

Goodwin - yes

Guidici Pietro - absent

Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes

Schiano - yes

Venes -yes

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

XVII. Policy

A board member asked a question about P 2425, to which Mrs. Walling responded.

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Policy #1-3**

Moved: Mr. Goodwin

Seconded: Mr. Venes

RC: Dillon -yes

Goodwin - yes

Guidici Pietro - absent

Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes

Schiano - yes

Venes -yes

1. Move the Board of Education suspend Bylaw 0131 and adopt new Policy 1642.01 and new Regulation 1642.01 and revised Policy 2419 and new Regulation 2419 with one reading based on recently approved sick leave legislation that is effective immediately and recent New Jersey Department of Education guidance provided to school districts that is effective September 1, 2023:

P & R 1642.01	Sick Leave	New/Recommended
R 2419	School Threat Assessment Teams	New/Mandated

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2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following for the first reading:

P 1230	Superintendent's Duties	Revised/Mandated
P 2425	Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program	Revised/Mandated
P 8441	Care of Injured or Ill Persons	Revised/Mandated
P 8500	Food Services	Revised/Mandated

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

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

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to abolish the following policies/regulations:

P & R 3432	Sick Leave	Abolish
P & R 4432	Sick Leave	Abolish

XVIII. Old Business - none

- XIX. New Business** - Mr. Dillon thanked the district for the informative Cyber Safety events. Mrs. Walling thanked Mrs. Jenks for researching and recommending the program.

- XX. Committee Reports** - The Board discussed some details in the new Sick Leave policy.

- XXI. Public Participation** - A member of the community asked Mrs. Walling about the test results percentages to provide more context with the number of students tested. He asked if data for students out-of-district are reported. Mrs. Walling responded. He asked the Board to consider updating the school website. Some Board members responded.

XXII. Adjournment - Resolution (Attachment #1)

A motion was made by Mr. Goodwin at 8:45 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Schiano to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 6 ayes - 0 nays.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Robinson
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary