

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
December 10, 2024**

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 Vivian Pupo, at 6:33 p.m.

II. Roll Call

At roll call, the following members were present:

Mr. Bill Dillon

Mr. Michael Goodwin

Dr. Dana Guidici Pietro - arrived at 7:44 pm

Mr. Jordan Hyman

Mrs. Vivian Pupo

Mr. Carmine Venes

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

Mrs. Candice Schiano was absent.

III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

Moved: Mr. Hyman

Seconded: Mr. Venes

RC: Dillon - yes

Goodwin - yes

Guidici Pietro - absent Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes

Schiano - absent

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:

- Legal/personnel matters
- Berkeley Heights Contract

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

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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.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board adjourns to executive session at 6:33 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>Mr. Goodwin</u>	Seconded: <u>Mr. Hyman</u>	
RC: Dillon -yes	Goodwin - yes	Guidici Pietro - absent Hyman - yes
Pupo - yes	Schiano - absent	Venes - yes

The public meeting reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

V. Flag Salute

VI. Approval of Minutes

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

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VII. Correspondence - none

VIII. Public Participation - none

IX. President's Report - none

- X. Superintendent's Report** - Mrs. Walling shared the high school parent survey results, as the board will be entering a new send/receive contract at the end of the 26/27 school year. She also shared the 5-Year Strategic Plan, which was developed with community input, the board committee, and administration, and is on the agenda for approval. Mr. Dillon made comments about the plan, asking that periodically throughout the years, whenever there are milestones or goals met, that they be reported out to the board and community. This plan will be posted on the website. Mr. Hyman made comments and is pleased with the final plan and the community involvement. Mrs. Walling moved on to congratulate Patriot's Pen Essay contest winners from the Veteran's Day assembly; she presented certificates to the Deerfield students who were in attendance. She thanked Mrs. Jenks, our local VFW and veterans, Boy Scouts, and other students for their participation in our annual event. We will be honoring our teachers and staff of the year at the January 21st meeting.

- XI. Business Administrator's Report** - Mrs. Sullivan reviewed the budget calendar for 25/26. Principals and department heads have been given information and she and Mrs. Walling will be

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putting together a preliminary budget. She noted state aide doesn't come out until later. March and April meetings are scheduled per state requirements as they stand now for budgets to be submitted. The 2% cap will continue to create a tight budget, but we are containing spending as much as possible. Mr. Hyman asked about Special Education expenses from Berkeley Heights that was an issue last year. Mr. Venes asked about our reserves. Mrs. Sullivan responded.

- XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report** - Mr. Hyman reported on the last meeting from 11/14. He noted various student activities updates. There was a presentation on school counseling services, and a college fair. There were Buildings and Grounds updates. They extended the Interim Asst. Superintendent and Asst. Principal at GL. They approved other clubs and co-ops for wrestling and ice hockey. The next meeting will be on 12/12, which will be approving next year's calendar. Mrs. Walling expects our calendar to be on the January agenda, and will align with Governor Livingston for main holiday breaks. Several board members made comments about being pleased with the counseling services at the high school, and the good communication with Mr. Nixon regarding the calendar preparations and other issues during his time as Interim Superintendent.

XIII. Administration

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

Moved: Mr. Goodwin

Seconded: Mr. Venes

RC: Dillon - yes

Goodwin - yes

Guidici Pietro - yes

Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes

Schiano - absent

Venes - yes

1. **WHEREAS**, on November 12, 2024 the Board of Education received a report from the superintendent containing the results of investigations conducted by each school regarding alleged incidents of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB); and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15(b)(6)(c) states, the report also includes information on services provided, training established, discipline imposed, or other action taken or recommended by the superintendent; and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered the report presented by the superintendent.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education affirms that the findings of the investigation and the report comply with the district's HIB policies and procedures for the following HIB incidents:

Case #: 242505, 242506, 242507, 242508

2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to appoint Mr. Hyman, to the Personnel/Negotiations Committee, to take the place of Mr. Dillon who was previously approved on 1/2/24.
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 5-Year Strategic Plan for 2024-2029. (Attachment #2)

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4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools November 2024 safety and security drill reports. (Attachment #3)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the revised job description as attached. This replaces what was approved previously on 11/12/24. (Attachment #3A)

XIV. Budget and Finance

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-6**

Moved: Mr. Hyman

Seconded: Mr. Dillon

RC: Dillon - yes

Goodwin - yes

Guidici Pietro - yes Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes

Schiano - absent

Venes - yes

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the month of November 2024. (Attachment #4)
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated November 14, 2024, through December 11, 2024. (Attachment #5)
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the months October and November 2024 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the months of October and November 2024; and

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 October and November 2024:

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

4. 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 #7). 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.
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, special education placements and services as per (Attachment #7A).
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a parent transportation contract, in the amount of \$6,500, pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A: 39.1 et seq. and

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N.J.A.C.6A: 27-9.9, between the Mountainside Board of Education and the parent/legal guardians of **Student #15357 MSD** for 24-25 Regular School Year.

XV. Personnel

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Personnel #1-6**

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro

Seconded: Mr. Goodwin

RC: Dillon - yes

Goodwin - yes

Guidici Pietro - yes

Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes

Schiano - absent

Venes - yes

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).

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of the following new hires for the 2024-2025 school year (Attachment #8):

Name	Loc.	Position	Salary/Step	Start	End
Cynthia Vasquez	DF	Spanish Teacher	\$75,261 Step 14 BA (prorated)	1/7/25	6/30/25

2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to appoint **David Chango**, to the position of Deerfield Media Specialist as a long term substitute, at the per diem rate of \$190, beginning January 2, 2025. Upon graduation and completed certification, it is anticipated that Mr. Chango will continue as a permanent Media Specialist, at a salary of \$57,949, Step 1 MA, prorated based on the exact start date, through 6/30/25. (Attachment #9)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 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. (Attachment #10)

Position	Name	Salary
Eric Stoddard	Boys' Co-Coach Basketball	\$3,189 (prorated)
Madison Phillips	Boys' Co-Coach Basketball	\$3,644 (prorated)
Axl Hirsch	FM Club - Grade 7	\$36.00/session <i>NTE 35 sessions per grade</i>
Dayna Carroll	Jr. Math Club Grade 3	\$36.00/session <i>NTE 35 sessions per grade</i>
Victoria Tiscia	Set Design & Construction	\$2,734

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4. 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
John Anton	Teacher Cert.	\$125/day
Brandon Espinal	Sub Cert.	\$115/day

5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to increase the rate for lunch aides from \$15.25 to \$15.50, effective January 1, 2025.
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following volunteers to assist Mr. Rosenblum and Mrs. Wargaski with the middle school play.

Dara Blass Dara Borsellino Danielle Catone Bianca David	Ingrid Errico Anna Georgiou Jackie Happich Jennifer Herits Jody Khan	Lisa Massimo Tonia Perkins Anisa Peters Alison Quispe
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XVI. Curriculum

The following motion was approved by roll call vote: **Curriculum #1**

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro

Seconded: Mr. Hyman

RC: Dillon - abstain

Goodwin - yes

Guidici Pietro - yes

Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes

Schiano - absent

Venes - yes

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

XV. Policy

The board discussed service animals policy, to which Mrs. Walling responded.

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Policy #1-2**

Moved: Mr. Venes

Seconded: Mr. Hyman

RC: Dillon -yes

Goodwin - yes

Guidici Pietro - yes

Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes

Schiano - absent

Venes - yes

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

P 7610	Vandalism	Revised/Recommended
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2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following bylaws/policies/regulations for the second reading and adoption:

P 5337	Service Animals	Revised/Recommended
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XVII. Old Business - none

- XVIII. New Business** - Mr. Hyman suggested start times for meetings to be discussed in January. Mr. Dillon asked about the process for suggesting a new sport or how to introduce co-op opportunities, to which Mrs. Walling responded. Mr. Dillon recommended at the Reorganization that the board create a new committee to oversee the send/receive agreement; they discussed the roles of the Berkeley Heights committee and if it can be all one committee or not. Mrs. Walling mentioned Blue Ribbon displays around town and in Deerfield, and the board discussed it further. She thanked the PTO for a new Deerfield entrance carpet and new podium, and thanked the Watts Foundation for their support of various wish lists for our schools.

- XIX. Committee Reports** - Mr. Hyman thanked the Strategic Planning committee for their work to complete the plan.

- XX. Public Participation - none**

- XXI. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Dr. Guidici Pietro at 8:49 p.m., seconded by Mr. Venes to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 6 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Sullivan
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary