

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

July 19, 2022

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 Mr. James Ruban, Jr., at 6:31 p.m.

II. Roll Call

At roll call, the following members were present:

Mr. Bill Dillon

Mr. Jordan Hyman

Mrs. Vivian Pupo

Mr. James Ruban, Jr.

Mrs. Candice Schiano - arrived at 7:15p.m.

Mr. Carmine Venes

Dr. Dana Guidici Pietro was absent.

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

III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

Moved: Mr. Hyman Seconded: Mrs. Pupo

RC:	Dillon - yes	Guidici Pietro - absent	Hyman - yes	Pupo - yes
	Ruban -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:

1. Legal/Personnel

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.

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

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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: Mr. Hyman Seconded: Mr. Pupo

RC: Dillon - yes Guidici Pietro - absent Hyman - yes Pupo - yes
Ruban -yes Schiano - yes Venes -yes

The public meeting reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

V. Flag Salute

VI. Approval of Minutes

Moved: Mr. Venes Seconded: Mr. Hyman

RC: Dillon - yes Guidici Pietro - absent Hyman - yes Pupo - yes
Ruban -yes Schiano - yes Venes -yes

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 28, 2022
- ❖ Minutes of the 1st Executive Session of June 28, 2022
- ❖ Minutes of the 2nd Executive Session of June 28, 2022

VII. Correspondence - none

VIII. Public Participation - none

IX. President's Report - none

- X. Superintendent's Report - Mrs. Walling provided an update to our Extended School Year and Summer Learning Academy summer programs. She pointed out the revised school calendar that is on the agenda. She noted we are interviewing for open positions, and how difficult it is for all districts to find a robust pool of candidates. We are always looking for substitute teachers, and are expanding where we advertise. As a follow up to a parent's concern last month, the Curriculum Committee met about Honor Roll. We are planning to move to a trimester system for middle school. The Committee discussed celebrating Honor Roll students with a certificate after each trimester, and recognition for those students who receive this honor for all trimesters at an end of year Board meeting. Handbooks and Genesis will be updated to reflect this change. The board asked questions and Mrs. Walling responded.

XI. Business Administrator's Report - none

- XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report - Mr. Hyman's last meeting on July 11th, was an emergency meeting to approve the transportation contract. They approved 9 of 11 routes, with a 62% increase. The next meeting will be Aug 11th.

XIII. Administration

Mr. Dillon asked for clarification on "tentative" board meeting dates in 2023. Mrs. Walling responded they are formally approved at January reorganization meetings, per calendar year.

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

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

1. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mountainside Board of Education has determined that 3.8 (2 Quantitative and 2 Qualitative Merit Goals) of the four goals established in the employment contract for Janet Walling, Superintendent, have been satisfied and were achieved during the 2021-22 school year, as confirmed by the Union County Interim Superintendent of Schools;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the applicable Merit Bonus provisions of the Superintendent's contract shall be paid as per contractual agreement. (Attachment #2)

2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the revised school calendar for the 2022-2023 school year. (Attachment #3)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools June 2022 safety and security drill reports. (Attachment #4)

XIV. Budget and Finance

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-8**

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

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the month of June 2022. (Attachment #5)
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated July 1, 2022, through July 20, 2022. (Attachment #6)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the Watts Foundation donation in the amount of \$6,930.23 to be used to install a Thinking Classroom at Deerfield School. (Attachment #7)
4. **WHEREAS**, the Mountainside School District solicited bids for transportation services (bid number MSD2023-01) for "to and from school" for the 2022-2023 school year and

WHEREAS, the Mountainside School District received two bids on June 28, 2022 and

WHEREAS, the two bids were as follows:

- Durham School Services, L.P \$342,584.90
- Student Transportation of America, Inc. \$375,840.00

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BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Education will award bid number MSD2023-01 for district transportation “to and from school” to Durham School Services, L.P. in the amount of \$342,584.90.

5. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Mountainside Board of Education awards the property and liability insurance to the following, effective from 7/1/2022- 7/1/2023:

School Alliance Insurance Fund (SAIF)	
Gallagher (Broker)	
Comprehensive Board Program includes Property, General Liability, Auto Liability, Crime, Pollution, and Cyber Coverages	\$91,171
Worker's Compensation and Supplemental Indemnity	\$49,409
Fireman's Fund Insurance Company (Allianz SE)	
Gallagher (Broker)	
Excess Liability	\$5,276
Zurich American Insurance Company	
Gallagher (Broker)	
Student/Athletic Accident Insurance	\$2,034
Total:	\$147,890

6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the approval of an agreement with Tri-County Behavioral Care to provide therapeutic services to students and families referred by school district personnel for the 2022-23 school year, in the amount of \$48,000. Services to be funded with ARP grant funds. (Attachment #8)
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 #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.
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, special education placements and services as per (Attachment #10).

XV. Personnel

The board and Mrs. Walling recognized Mr. Whitaker's resignation, and thanked him for his years of service. Mrs. Schiano and Mr. Hyman commended him for his leadership regarding technology when we needed to move to remote learning.

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

Moved: Mr. Venes Seconded: Mr. Hyman

RC: Dillon - yes Guidiciopietro - absent Hyman - yes Pupo - yes
 Ruban -yes Schiano - yes Venes -yes

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of **Erin Cassata**, to the position of Custodian, at a prorated annual salary of \$44,573, Step 3 Maintenance, for the 2022-2023 school year, pending successful criminal background check. Her anticipated start date is August 1, 2022. (Attachment #11)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of **Jason Whitaker**, Technology Coordinator, effective July 29, 2022, and to thank him for his service to the Mountainside School District. (Attachment #12)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, 2022-2023 ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) Title I Personnel:

Name	Salary	ESEA Title I	Approximate % of Salary	Approximate Benefits
D. Carroll	\$44,088	\$35,227	80%	\$17,966

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the request for tuition reimbursement from **Ellie Barkin-Baron**, STEM Teacher, for class taken at The College of New Jersey, for the 2022 Spring Session for three (3) graduate credits in the amount of \$2,154. (Attachment #13)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of the following part time Lunch Aides and Media Assistant for the 2022-2023 school year:

Name	Position	Rate
Camila Bove	Lunch Aide	\$15.00/hr.
JoAnn DiPaola	Lunch Aide	\$15.00/hr.
Catherine Hart	Lunch Aide (pending paperwork and successful criminal background check)	\$15.00/hr.
Christine Kiesewetter	Lunch Aide	\$15.00/hr.
Lauren Klein	Lunch Aide	\$15.00/hr.
Monika Zmuda	Lunch Aide	\$15.00/hr.
Carolee Lavey	Media Assistant	\$15.00/hr.

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XVI. Policy

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

Moved: Mr. Venes Seconded: Mrs. Schiano

RC: Dillon - yes Guidiciopietro - absent Hyman - yes Pupo - yes
 Ruban -yes Schiano - yes Venes -yes

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

0142.1	Nepotism	Revised
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2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following policies/regulations for the second reading and adoption:

P 9320 R 9320	Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies	Revised/Mandated New/Mandated
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- XVII. Old Business** - Mr. Venes attended a county board meeting. They discussed school start times, where older high school students start later, and younger students start earlier. The trend is picking up and some local districts are making adjustments.

- XVIII. New Business** - none

- XIX. Committee Reports** - Mrs. Pupo mentioned the new library director will be starting July 27th. Mrs. Richards is still involved in the ongoing project with the library. Mr. Hyman asked about the digital sign. Mrs. Walling responded that Mr. DeVico is on top of it, but there are delays with the company. Mrs. Schiano commented that the Curriculum Committee met as discussed earlier, and it was very productive. The Strategic Planning Committee convened, and reviewed goals, most of which are in progress or have been met. They will continue to evaluate these goals.

- XX. Public Participation** - none

- XXI. Adjournment** - Resolution (Attachment #1)
A motion was made by Mr. Venes at 8:01 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Pupo to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 6 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Steven Robinson
Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary