

## Minutes of the Regular Meeting

November 12, 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 6:31 p.m.

### II. Roll Call

At roll call, the following members were present:

Mr. Michael Goodwin

Dr. Dana Guidici Pietro - arrived at 7:02 pm

Mr. Jordan Hyman

Mrs. Vivian Pupo

Mrs. Candice Schiano - arrived at 6:56 pm

Mr. Carmine Venes

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

Mr. Bill Dillon was absent.

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

Moved: Mr. Hyman      Seconded: Mr. Goodwin

RC:	Dillon -absent	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

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

The public meeting reconvened at 7:33 p.m.

### V. Flag Salute

### VI. Approval of Minutes

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

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- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of October 15, 2024

### VII. Correspondence - none

### VIII. Public Participation - none

IX. President's Report - Mrs Pupo thanked the community for voting to pass the public ballot question to help build on our schools' strengths. She also congratulated Mrs.Schiano and Mr. Hyman on their re-election to the board for another term.

X. Superintendent's Report - Mrs. Walling also thanked the community for supporting our schools in passing the public question. She noted on tonight's agenda are approvals for several staff to provide additional programming, as well as a 2nd day of mental health support. All reinstated and new positions have been advertised, and we hope to get these positions filled as soon as possible. There is a new job description on the agenda for approval as well. Things have been very busy with PTO Trunk-or-Treat, and Halloween parades and parties. She thanked Deerfield for their annual Veteran's Day celebrations. She noted the Patriot's Pen Essay winners were announced and will be recognized at the next board meeting. Mrs. Walling noted that a parent survey will go out tomorrow regarding high school programming feedback, as we are approaching the end of our current 10 yr. contract with Berkeley Heights which expires at the end of the 26/27 school year. Mrs. Walling mentioned that she was honored to attend the award ceremony with Mrs. Jenks and Mrs. Goldbeck in Washington D.C. She noted that the plaque and flag will be displayed. She thanked the PTO and Mrs. Starling, Mrs. Tiscia, and Mrs. Keegan for spearheading the blue ribbon t-shirts for all staff, and blue ribbons around the building. Mrs. Jenks is looking into vendors to

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memorialize our Blue Ribbon recognition of Deerfield permanently in some way. Finally she noted last week's conferences went well in both buildings.

**XI. Business Administrator's Report** - Mrs. Sullivan introduced Kathi Mantell, partner at Nisivoccia, to present the audit report for the 2023-24 fiscal year and to answer any questions the board members have regarding the audit. She noted the C1 schedule and highlighted the fact that there is slightly less fund balance available for use in our 25/26 budget. There were no recommendations in the report and therefore, the board is just required to accept the audit.

**XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report** - Mr. Hyman reported on the last 2 meetings. The regular meeting on 10/17 gave student activities updates, approved winter coaches, sports updates - noting the Girls' Volleyball Team are in the finals. The new AD, CJ Hendricks started. There were NJSLA, Special Education, and HIB presentations. There will be an AP course presentation on Thursday. There were facilities reports regarding field lighting, press box upgrades, and looking into outdoor lockers. The gyms were painted. At the Special meeting, they approved the new Superintendent, Dr. Kim Feltre, who will be coming from Hillsborough, and starting January 1st, with a 3.5 year contract.

**XIII. Administration**

*Mrs. Walling noted item #2 and went over these school self-assessments, and reported out the scores for Beechwood and Deerfield.*

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

Moved: Mr. Hyman

Seconded: Mr. Venes

RC: Dillon -absent

Goodwin - yes Guidici Pietro - yes Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes

Schiano - yes Venes - yes

1. **WHEREAS**, on October 15, 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 #: 242501, 242502, 242503, 242504

2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2023-2024 New Jersey Department of Education School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act for Beechwood and Deerfield Schools. (Attachment #2)

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3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the School Safety and Security Plan Annual Review Statement of Assurance (Attachment #3).
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the QSAC District Improvement Plan. (Attachment #4)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve job description as attached. (Attachment #5)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools October 2024 safety, security drill reports, and bus evacuation drills. (Attachment #6)

### XIV. Budget and Finance

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-11**

Moved: Mr. Goodwin

Seconded: Mrs. Schiano

RC: Dillon -absent

Goodwin - yes

Guidici Pietro - yes Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes

Schiano - yes

Venes - yes

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the month of October 2024. (Attachment #7)
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated October 17, 2024, through November 13, 2024. (Attachment #8)
3. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Mountainside Board of Education, accepts the FY 2023-2024 audit, and approves the submission of the A.C.F.R. (Annual Comprehensive Financial Report) as presented by the firm Nisivoccia. (Attachment #9)
4. **WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) authorizes contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System and to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Bergen, hereinafter referred to as the "Lead Agency " has offered voluntary participation in the New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Alliance # CK04- a Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods and services;

**WHEREAS**, on (11/12/24) the governing body of the (Mountainside School District), County of (Union), State of New Jersey duly considered participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the provision and performance of goods and services;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** as follows:

This **RESOLUTION** shall be known and may be cited as the Cooperative Pricing Resolution of the (Mountainside School District).

Pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5)*, the Business Administrator is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency.

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The Lead Agency shall be responsible for complying with the provisions of the *Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.)* and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage. (Attachment #10)

5. **WHEREAS**, the Mountainside Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-11 and 12 and N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5), may, by resolution and without advertising for bids, award contracts for the purchase of any goods or services and that were procured through cooperative purchasing agreements; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mountainside Board of Education authorized participation in the Bergen County, Cooperative Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mountainside Board of Education has the need on a timely basis to purchase services utilizing this; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mountainside Board of Education intends to enter into a contract with Automated Building Control through this resolution, which shall be subject to all the conditions applicable to the current Cooperative contracts.

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED**, the Mountainside Board of Education authorizes the Purchasing Agent to purchase services from Automated Building Controls for the 2024-2025 school year pursuant to all conditions of the individual contract; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the duration of the contract between the Mountainside Board of Education and Automated Building Controls shall be from 7/1/24 to 6/30/25.

6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with Golden Arrow Transportation to provide transportation for the basketball season, at a rate of \$550.00 per bus. (Attachment #11)
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with US Sports Institute, for use of Beechwood facilities, at a cost of \$1,800 as outlined under Tier 6 usage fees in district Policy 7510.
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with CarePlus to provide In-District Counseling Services to students and families referred by school district personnel for the 2024-25 school year, for an additional 1 day per week in the amount of \$27,000.  
*\*This was previously approved on 9/24/24 for 1 day/wk.*
9. 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 #12). 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.
10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, special education placements and services as per (Attachment #13).

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11. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with G2 Athletics, LLC for an 8 session after school basketball program for Beechwood students, to be held January 9th-February 27th, at a cost of \$440 as outlined under Tier 6 usage fees in district Policy 7510. (Attachment #13A)

### XV. Personnel

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Personnel #1-13**

Moved: Mr. Venes

Seconded: Mrs. Schiano

RC: Dillon -absent

Goodwin -yes

Guidici Pietro - yes

Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes

Schiano - yes

Venes - yes

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to expand the hours of **Dayna Carroll**, Special Education Teacher, from a part-time to a full time position, effective November 4, 2024.
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of **Jacqueline Araneo**, from the position of part-time Special Education Teacher, effective October 24, 2024. (Attachment #14)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of **Sharon Bradley**, from the position of Deerfield Librarian, effective December 21, 2024. (Attachment #15)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of **Maria Carrillo**, paraprofessional, effective October 31, 2024. (Attachment #16)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of **Ferdinando Melo**, from the stipend position of Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach, effective November 14, 2024. (Attachment #17)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of **Dan Kessler**, from the stipend position of Boys' Basketball Coach, effective November 22, 2024. (Attachment #18)
7. 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.

Name	Position	Salary
<b>Monica Salamanca</b>	Asst. Girls' Basketball Coach	\$2,276 (1-2 yr rate)
<b>Shannon Keegan</b>	Chess Club	\$36.00/session <i>NTE 30 sessions</i>
<b>Judy Wargaski</b>	Asst. Play Director	\$2,734 (3+ yr. rate)

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<b>Victoria Tiscia</b>	Art Club <i>(add'l due to high enrollment)</i>	\$36.00/session <i>NTE 30 sessions</i>
<b>James Mikula</b>	Asst. Play Director - Pit Band	\$556 (1-2 yr. rate)
<b>Julia Chirls</b>	Jr. Math Club Grades 1-2	\$36.00/session <i>NTE 35 sessions per grade</i>

8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff to assist Mr. Rosenblum and Mrs. Wargaski with the middle school play. Stipends will be paid through the Student Activities Music Fund.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Lindsey Garnhart	Choreographer	\$3,000
Irene Rigos	Crew Manager	\$1,000
<b>Parent Volunteers &amp; *High School Volunteers</b>		
Genevieve Cooper	Claudia Shehady	Lisa Klemens
Karen Dillon	Doug Freeman	Lilian Zawislak
Fatima Wilches	Christa Cerrulo	Joshua Zawislak
Cindy Dates	Diana Petrazzuolli	Michael Phillipou
Karen Malet	Ahmer Khan	Stephanie Phillipou
Liliana Silva		

9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of the following to the 2024-2025 Substitute Teacher List, pending paperwork and successful criminal background check. (Attachment #19)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Certification</b>	<b>Rate</b>
<b>Kristine Cisko</b>	Sub Cert	\$115/day
<b>Lisa Bohrer</b>	Sub Cert	\$115/day
<b>Nicole King</b>	Teaching Cert.	\$125/day
<b>Jennifer DiGiorgio</b>	Sub. Cert	\$115/day

10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the notification to take 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 #20)
11. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Jada Forde**, to the position of part-time paraprofessional, Step 1, \$27.34/hr., effective 11/14/24.

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12. 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.

Name	Position	Salary
<b>Axl Hirsch</b>	FM Math Club - Gr. 8	\$36.00/session <i>NTE 35 sessions per grade</i>
<b>Stephanie Mlynarczyk</b>	FM Math Club - Gr. 6	\$36.00/session <i>NTE 35 sessions per grade</i>
<b>April Starling</b>	Jr. Math Club - Gr. 5	\$36.00/session <i>NTE 35 sessions per grade</i>
<b>Jessica Milstrey</b>	Jr. Math Club - Gr. 3-5	\$36.00/session <i>NTE 35 sessions per grade</i>
<b>Stephanie Cuccio</b>	Reading Club Gr. 1-2	\$36.00/session <i>NTE 35 sessions per grade</i>

**XVI. Policy**

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

Moved: Mr. Hyman Seconded: Mrs. Schiano

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

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

P 5337	Service Animals	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:

Bylaw 0141.1	Board Member Number and Term – Sending District	Revised/Recommended
R 5200	Attendance	Revised/Mandated

**XVII. Old Business - none**

- XVIII. New Business -** The board changed the Reorganization meeting date from January 7th to January 6th (tentatively) due to a conflict with the Berkeley Heights meeting.



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**XIX. Committee Reports** - Mrs. Walling noted a Strategic Planning meeting is upcoming on Thursday, with the goal having it ready for board approval in December.

**XX. Public Participation** - none

**XXI. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Dr. Guidici Pietro at 8:13 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Schiano to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 6 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Sullivan  
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary