

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
October 15, 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. Michael Goodwin  
Dr. Dana Guidicipietro  
Mr. Jordan Hyman  
Mrs. Vivian Pupo  
Mrs. Candice Schiano  
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: Mrs. Schiano Seconded: Dr. Guidicipietro

RC:	Dillon -absent	Goodwin - yes	Guidicipietro - yes	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:

- 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.

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
October 15, 2024**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board adjourns to executive session at 6:35 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 -absent	Goodwin - yes	Guidicipietro - yes Hyman - yes
Pupo - yes	Schiano - yes	Venes - yes

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

**V. Flag Salute**

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

Moved: <u>Dr. Guidicipietro</u>	Seconded: <u>Mrs. Schiano</u>	
RC: Dillon - absent	Goodwin - yes	Guidicipietro -yes Hyman-abstain
on 9/24, yes on 9/30	Pupo - yes	Schiano -yes Venes - yes

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 24, 2024
- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of September 24, 2024
- ❖ Minutes of the Special Meeting of September 30, 2024
- ❖ Minutes of the 1st Executive Session of September 30, 2024
- ❖ Minutes of the 2nd Executive Session of September 30, 2024

**VII. Correspondence - none**

**VIII. Public Participation - none**

**IX. President's Report - Mrs. Pupo thanked all of the committees of the PTO who put together a fantastic Fall Festival. It was a beautiful day.**

**X. Superintendent's Report - Mrs. Walling also thanked the PTO for the Fall Festival, and thanked board members for their help at the table regarding the Public Question. She noted the community forums that have taken place and are upcoming. Lots of great activities in schools last week for Week of Respect, Fire Prevention Week, PTO theme days for anti-bullying and other topics. School counselors met with students regarding respect. The author visit took place with the Simple Seed writer, who conducted student assemblies and staff training regarding kindness. Mrs. Walling then presented NJSLA and DLM state testing results, with Linkit data. The Board commented on the results.**

**XI. Business Administrator's Report - Mrs. Sullivan noted the mandatory reports that are on the agenda, noting the M-1 is the basis for the budget for facilities maintenance, which we are just starting to put together now.**

## Minutes of the Regular Meeting

October 15, 2024

- XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report** - Mr. Hyman reported on last month's meetings. Mr. Nixon updated District Goals, DEI plan, etc. The Board extended Mr. Nixon as acting superintendent through December, hoping to announce a new superintendent by January. And Jackie Bartlett as acting principal. A new athletic director was hired, who seems excellent. Student reports including senior activities, fall sport updates, security measures, possible 2 electric buses. There will be a Special Education presentation on Thursday and state testing reporting.

**XIII. Administration**

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Administration #1-4**

Moved: Mrs. Schiano

Seconded: Mr. Goodwin

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 2024-2025 Nursing Services Plan. (Attachment #2)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2024-2025 Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklist for Beechwood and Deerfield Schools. (Attachment #3)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the annual Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and M-1. (Attachment #4)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools September 2024 safety and security drill reports. (Attachment #5)

**XIV. Budget and Finance**

*Mr. Hyman asked about the Blackbaud organization. Mrs. Walling responded that a parent who works with New York Life partners with their giving fund which allows for a nonprofit donation.*

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-10**

Moved: Mr. Hyman

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 September 2024. (Attachment #6)
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated September 26, 2024, through October 16, 2024. (Attachment #7)
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of September 2024, and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of September 2024 ; and

## Minutes of the Regular Meeting

October 15, 2024

**WHEREAS**, the 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 September 2024:

**RESOLVED THAT**, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the month of September 2024 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for September 2024 as submitted and certified (Attachment #8).

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Transportation Agreement between MUJC and the Mountainside School District to Banyan, Newmark Grammer and Newmark High School for the 24/25 school year, in the amount of \$199,749.10. (Attachment #9)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Transportation Agreement between MUJC and the Mountainside School District to Banyan, Newmark Grammer and Newmark High School for the 24/25 extended school year, in the amount of \$7,964.10. (Attachment #10)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the cooperative agreement between the Mountainside Board of Education and Berkeley Heights for a middle school wrestling program. (Attachment #11)
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the Watts Foundation donation of \$600 to be used for 3 new keyboards for the music program. (Attachment #12)
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the Blackbaud Giving Fund donations of \$1,147.50 for Beechwood School and \$1,015.00 for Deerfield School. (Attachment #13)
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 #14). 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 #15).

### XV. Personnel

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

Moved: Mrs. Schiano

Seconded: Mr. Venes

RC: Dillon -absent  
Pupo - yes

Goodwin -yes  
Schiano - yes

Guidici Pietro - yes  
Venes - yes

Hyman - yes

## Minutes of the Regular Meeting

October 15, 2024

*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 #16):

Name	Loc.	Position	Salary/Step	Start	End
Jacqueline Araneo	DF	Special Education Teacher	\$29,535 (50% of \$59,070) Step 3 MA (prorated)	10/21/24	6/30/25

2. 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
Bryan Young	Girls' Basketball Coach	\$3,189 (1-2 yr. rate)
April Starling Rosemarie Sardina	TEP Enrichment	\$36.00/session NTE 30 sessions each

3. 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 #17)

Substitute's Name	Certification	Rate
Kristine Cisko	Sub Cert. (pending)	\$115/day
Sara Polo	Sub Cert.	\$115/day
Jada Forde	Sub Cert.	\$115/day

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the increased paraprofessional hours for **Joanne DiPaola**, for up to 18 hours per week for the 2024-2025 school year. *She was previously approved for up to 7 hrs/wk on August 20, 2024.*
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to appoint **Ferdinando Melo**, to the position of PE/Health long term substitute, at the per diem rate of \$185, beginning December 16, 2024 through January 2025. Upon graduation and completed certification, it is anticipated that Mr. Melo will continue as a permanent PE/Health teacher, at a salary of \$54,875, Step 1 BA, prorated based on the exact start date.

## XVI. Policy

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

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
October 15, 2024**

Moved: Mr. Hyman      Seconded: Mr. Goodwin

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 policies/regulations for the first reading:

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

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

P 5350	Student Suicide Prevention	Revised/Mandated
P 8420	Emergency and Crisis Situations	Revised/Mandated

**XVII.      Old Business - none**

**XVIII.    New Business - Dr. Guidici Pietro reminded everyone that the PTO's Trunk or Treat will be on October 25th, including a sensory time, chili bar, and zen den.**

**XIX.      Committee Reports - none**

**XX.      Public Participation - none**

**XXI.      Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Goodwin at 8:50 p.m., seconded by Dr. Guidici Pietro to adjourn.  
The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 6 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Sullivan  
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary