

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

September 19, 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 6:32 p.m.

II. Roll Call

At roll call, the following members were present:

Mr. Bill Dillon
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 Steven Robinson, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

Isabel Machado, Board Attorney arrived after roll call at 6:45.

III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

Moved: Dr. Guidicipietro

Seconded: Mrs. Schiano

RC: Dillon -yes

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:

1. Legal/Personnel matters

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 adjourn 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>Dr. Guidici Pietro</u>	Seconded: <u>Mrs. Schiano</u>		
RC: Dillon -yes	Goodwin - yes	Guidici Pietro - yes	Hyman - yes
Pupo - yes	Schiano - yes	Venes -yes	

The public meeting reconvened at 7:43 p.m.

V. Flag Salute

VI. Approval of Minutes

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

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- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of August 8, 2023

VII. Correspondence - none

VIII. Public Participation - none

IX. President's Report - Mrs. Pupo welcomed everyone back to school, and thanked the faculty for a smooth start to the year.

X. Superintendent's Report - Mrs. Walling reported that the reopening of schools has been smooth, she mentioned all of the events that have begun and are upcoming. She mentioned Back to School Nights, PTO events, new curriculum, etc. She addressed some transportation issues which occurred with Vo-Tech at the beginning of the school year. She noted Deerfield will be hosting Field Day in the Fall, as a team building, SEL activity. She mentioned a Cyber Safety event for students and parents on October 4th, that PTO and MEF are co-sponsoring, tying this into the Week of Respect. iReady and Link-It benchmarks have begun and results will be used for data collection, instruction, and forming our AIM groups for extra support. Clubs and activities will be starting soon. Mrs. Walling was excited to welcome many new staff and several leave replacements, and discussed the beneficial new teacher orientation day along with other staff training days. She presented the SSDS Report, which points out the number of HIB incidents and training for the past year, including any

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restraint or suspensions as newly required. She also noted the positive reinforcement programs at both schools for good behavior.

Mrs. Schiano voiced her concerns about the decision to move Field Day to the fall. Other board members asked some questions about it as well, to which Mrs. Walling responded.

XI. Business Administrator's Report - none

- XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report** - Mr. Hyman reported from the last 2 meetings on 8/10 & 9/14. Dr. Varley & Rob Nixon reported on test results from last March, by the juniors, who are now seniors. There was a presentation from School Boards on setting Board goals and self-evaluation. There will be a special meeting to discuss board goals, some suggestions were communication and planning. They approved the BHAA contract and open campus. He noted various retirements and new hires. Also approved were Anthony Giordano as Asst. Superintendent, and new hires for Interim BA, Asst. BA, Director of Special Services, Asst. Principal, and Technology Coordinator roles. The new student representative was approved, as well as various sports updates and upcoming events, including a Homecoming dance. He noted other state testing results, including AP statistics. They approved the tuition contracts with the send/receive agreement with Mountainside. The next meeting will be on 10/12/23. Mr. Venes asked about open campus, to which Mr. Hyman responded that it's a privilege for seniors for lunch and/or study halls.

XIII. Administration

Mrs. Walling thanked the Curriculum Committee for input on the updated Student Handbooks. There were some updates to the tardy policy and code of conduct language. Mr. Hyman asked about the Remote/Virtual policy, to which Mrs. Walling responded.

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

Moved: Mr. Hyman

Seconded: Mrs. Schiano

RC: Dillon -yes

Goodwin - yes

Guidici Pietro - yes

Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes

Schiano - yes

Venes -yes

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Statement of Assurance Regarding the Use of Paraprofessional Staff for the 2023-2024 School Year. (Attachment #2)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2023-2024 Professional Development Plan Statement of Assurance. (Attachment #3)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Mentoring Plan Statement of Assurance. (Attachment #4)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the School Safety and Security Plan.

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5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2023-2024 Mountainside Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan and Checklist, as required by the Department of Education. (Attachment #5)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Student Safety Data System Report for the 2022-2023 school year, which includes HIB incidents, Trainings, and Programs.(Attachment #6)
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Student Handbooks for the 2023-2024 school year for Beechwood, Deerfield Grades 3-5 and Deerfield Grades 6-8. (Attachments 7, 8, 9)

XIV. Budget and Finance

Mr. Dillon noted that the tuition numbers are in line with what was budgeted. Mrs. Walling noted that we verify residency with new GL students, and keep a record for enrollment information. Mr. Hyman asked about LinkIt, Mrs. Walling commented that we've added an additional module for data. He also asked about tree service, to which Mr. Robinson responded. Dr. Guidici Pietro thanked the PTO for their donation, and thanked Mr. and Mrs. Jenks and our custodians for the new landscaping. Mrs. Walling commented that PTO and Watts Foundation have donated money for a new Beechwood electronic sign.

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

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro

Seconded: Mr. Hyman

RC: Dillon -yes

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 July 2023. (Attachment #10)
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated July 1, 2023, through September 20, 2023 (Attachment #11).
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of July 2023 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of July 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 July 2023:

RESOLVED THAT, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the month of July 2023 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for July 2023 as submitted and certified (Attachment #12).

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4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Berkeley Heights Governor Livingston High School General Education Tuition Agreement Contract for the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of \$4,464,250.00. (Attachment #13).
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Berkeley Heights Governor Livingston High School Resource Room Tuition Agreement Contract for the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of \$292,200.00.(Attachment #14).
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the PTO donations of \$3,635 to be used towards a new Deerfield sign, and \$2,000 to be used towards landscaping. (Attachment #15)
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 #16). 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 #17).

XV. Personnel

Mr. Dillon asked about the Rec. Club for Volleyball, and there were some questions and comments from the Board about stipends. Mrs. Walling responded.

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Personnel #1-10**

Moved: Mrs. Schiano

Seconded: Dr. Guidicipietro

RC: Dillon -yes

Goodwin - yes

Guidicipietro - yes

Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes

Schiano - yes

Venes -yes

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of **Susan Browne**, to the position of Teacher of Technology (STEM), at the salary of \$74,413, Step 11 MA+30, effective for the 2023-2024 school year. (Attachment #18)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Desiree Baroody** to provide supplemental instruction for student #9074404763 and student #2281247684, 2 hours/week each at a rate of \$44.00/hour, during the 2023/2024 school year.
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **Annabella Ross**, to be paid up to 4 hours at a rate of \$44/hour, for her participation in a Behavioral Assessment Team meeting on August 22, 2023.

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4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the request from **Kristin Eckert**, Kindergarten Teacher, to extend her unpaid family leave from January 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024. She anticipates returning to work at the start of the 2024-2025 school year. (Attachment #19)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of the following leave replacement teachers for the 2023-2024 school year (Attachment #20):

Name	Blg.	Position	Salary/Step	Start	End
JoAnne DiPaola	DF	Gr. 3 Elementary Education Teacher (Laurendi)	\$54,875 BA Step 1 (prorated)	9/1/23	11/3/23
Grace Elliott	BW	Gr. 2 Elementary Education Teacher (Naftulin)	\$57,949 MA Step 1 (prorated)	9/1/23	2/13/24
Gabriela Karch	BW	Gr K Elementary Education Teacher (Eckert)	\$55,377 BA Step 2	9/1/23	6/30/24

6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to increase hours for the following staff by up to 30 minutes per day to assist with dismissal, for the 23-24 school year.

Natalie Crisafulli (M-F)	Kathleen Goldbeck (M-F)	Suzanne Tighe (M-W)
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7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff members to serve as mentors during the 2023-2024 school year:

Staff Member	Assignment (dates are approx.)	Fee Amount
Julie Lima	Christina Fallon 30 weeks: 10/2/23-5/3/24	\$550 (CEAS)
Kathleen Goldbeck	Julia Chirls 8 weeks: 10/2/23-12/1/23	\$1,000 (CE-R) prorated= \$266.67
Lori Topel	Caitlyn Kube 15 weeks: 10/2/23-5/3/24	\$550 (CEAS) prorated=\$275
Michelle Jamnik	Grace Elliott 20 weeks: 10/2/23-2/14/24	\$550 (CEAS) prorated=\$366.67
Paige Primmer	Jeni Starinsky 8 weeks: 9/26/23-11/20/23	\$550 (CEAS) prorated=\$146.67

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8. 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 #21)

Name	Certification	Rate
MaryAnn Iorio	Teaching Cert- NY (NJ sub cert pending)	\$125
Alexa Circelli	Sub cert (pending)	\$115

9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **Laura Chiappetta** and **Nina Woo** for curriculum writing, at a rate of \$44.00/hour, not to exceed 20 hours total.
10. 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
Corrin Lavery	Yearbook Co-Advisor	\$3,796
Jessica Goldstein	Yearbook Co-Advisor	\$3,796
Deborah Posner	Administrative Detention Advisor	\$24/session
Deborah Posner	Away Game Assistance	\$36/session NTE 30 sessions
Stephanie Mlynarczyk	FM Math Club - Gr. 6 (ARP funded)	\$36/session NTE 60 sessions
Taylor Donato	Ecology Club Advisor Gr 5-8	\$36/session NTE 30 sessions
Nara Sterba	Art Club K-2	\$36/session NTE 30 sessions
Dan Kessler	Boys' Basketball Coach	\$3,644
Dan Kessler	Boys' Baseball Coach	\$3,644
Deborah Posner	Boys' Assistant Baseball Coach	\$2,276
Madison Phillips	Girls' Softball Coach	\$3,189
Jared Rosenblum	Girls' Assistant Softball Coach	\$2,276

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Deborah Posner	Recreation Club After School Supervisor (Volleyball) - Gr. 6-8	\$36/session NTE 30 sessions
Shea Cody	Recreation Club Assistant	\$36/session NTE 30 sessions
Jen Smith & Judy Wargaski	Recreation Club Supervisor /Assistant substitute only	\$36/session

XVI. Curriculum

Moved: Mr. Venes

Seconded: Dr. Guidici Pietro

RC: Dillon -yes
Pupo - yes

Goodwin - yes
Schiano - yes

Guidici Pietro - yes
Venes -yes

Hyman - yes

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

XVII. Policy

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

Moved: Mr. Hyman

Seconded: Mr. Goodwin

RC: Dillon -yes
Pupo - yes

Goodwin - yes
Schiano - yes

Guidici Pietro - yes
Venes -yes

Hyman - yes

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

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

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

P 5339	Screening for Dyslexia	Revised/Mandated
P 7100	Long-Range Facilities Planning	Revised/Mandated

XVIII. Old Business - none

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- XIX. New Business** - Mr. Goodwin reported highlights from the Mountainside Library regarding increased programming, attendance and new grants. They are working on a new strategic plan and looking for community input, including buildings and grounds as well as technology. Mrs. Schiano asked about K-2 winter concerts. Mrs. Walling responded that they have looked into this and there will be a musical event that is age appropriate, details are forthcoming. Mr. Venes asked about the school van, Mr. Robinson responded that he is still looking.
- XX. Committee Reports** - Dr. Guidici Pietro's PTO liaison report mentioned the way people can join the PTO, and the many upcoming PTO Fall activities. Mrs. Walling mentioned that the 5-Year Strategic Plan ends this school year, and that most of the areas have been addressed. She also discussed the development of the 2023-2024 District Goals. She recommended that 2 should remain and that there have been programs subsidized with ARP funding for SEL services and before/after care support classes that need to be looked at going forward and that consideration needs to be given to identify finances to support them. She asked the board to think about these concepts and to provide feedback.
- XXI. Public Participation** - A parent voiced his opinion and presented some information about walkability near Beechwood School and suggested adding sidewalks in a partnership with the township. He also asked if there might be additional options looked at for before/after care solutions.
- XXII. Adjournment - Resolution (Attachment #1)**

A motion was made by Dr. Guidici Pietro at 9:15 p.m., seconded by Mr. Venes to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 7 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Robinson
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary