

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
September 20, 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  
Dr. Dana Guidiciopietro  
Mr. Jordan Hyman  
Mrs. Vivian Pupo - arrived at 8:24 p.m.  
Mr. James Ruban, Jr.  
Mrs. Candice Schiano  
Mr. Carmine Venes

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

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

Moved: Dr. Guidiciopietro      Seconded: Mrs. Schiano

RC:	Dillon - yes	Guidiciopietro -yes	Hyman - yes	Pupo - absent
	Ruban -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 issues

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

The public meeting reconvened at 7:31 p.m.

### **V. Flag Salute**

### **VI. Approval of Minutes**

Moved: Dr. Guidiciopietro      Seconded: Mr. Hyman  
RC:      Dillon - yes      Guidiciopietro -yes      Hyman - yes      Pupo - absent  
            Ruban -yes      Schiano - yes      Venes -yes

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 30, 2022
- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of August 30, 2022

### **VII. Correspondence -**

- ❖ Email from J. Soares regarding curriculum
- ❖ Email from G. Van Kirk regarding legal counsel structure for board meetings
- ❖ Letter from J. Polce regarding curriculum
- ❖ Letter from E. Feller regarding curriculum

**VIII. President's Report** - Mr. Ruban read a statement about the important decision the board is faced with in regard to NJ state mandate for the Comprehensive Health & PE Curriculum. He read the possible consequences from the state for not complying with the requirements. He stated that upon consultation with the legal counsel he was informed that these penalties can range from loss of state aid, loss of QSAC points, being placed on a corrective action plan, teachers and/or administrators loss of certification, and/or board member penalties.

**IX. Superintendent's Report** - Mrs. Walling welcomed parents and hopes children have enjoyed the start of the school year. She presented the Student Safety Data Report for January to June of 21/22. She then presented the revised mandated Health & Family Life Curriculum. She outlined the specific aspects of the curricular documents and noted the detailed approach to writing this curriculum with attention to age appropriate lessons. This comprehensive presentation and drafts of the curriculum were available to view on the website prior to the meeting. Various potential legal and budgetary ramifications were shared by Mr. Robinson as part of the presentation. Mrs. Walling reviewed the existing opt-out policy & new process that parents would have the option to follow. Afterwards, the Board asked questions and expressed their thoughts and concerns with the required curricular changes. Mrs. Walling responded.

**X. Public Participation** - The public was invited to speak on the Health and Family Life topic after Mrs. Walling's presentation. A number of community members spoke about their concerns and

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thoughts regarding the new curricular mandates and asked the board to consider their vote carefully.

**XI. Business Administrator's Report - none**

**XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report - Mr. Hyman's next meeting will be on 9/22 at GL.**

**XIII. Administration**

*Mr. Hyman asked to clarify the Remote Plan, to which Mrs. Walling responded that it is the same as the previous plan, and applies to when school is closed for 3 consecutive days for any reason.*

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

Moved:	<u>Mrs. Schiano</u>	Seconded:	<u>Mr. Venes</u>
RC:	Dillon - yes	Guidiciopietro - yes	Hyman - yes Pupo - yes
	Ruban -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 2022-2023 School Year. (Attachment #2)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Student Safety Data System Report for the 2021 - 2022 school year, which includes HIB incidents, Trainings, and Programs. (Attachment #3)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2022-2023 Mountainside Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan and Checklist, as required by the Department of Education. (Attachment #4)

**XIV. Budget and Finance**

*Mr. Dillon asked about the tuition contract with GL and how the increases are structured over the years. Mrs. Walling, Mr. Robinson, and Mr. Ruban responded. Mrs. Pupo asked about the new Class II officer, to which Mrs. Walling responded that a 2nd officer is being added for this school year, plus additional hours for each, with the Borough's support to cover some of the additional expense.*

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

Moved:	<u>Dr. Guidiciopietro</u>	Seconded:	<u>Mrs. Pupo</u>
RC:	Dillon - yes	Guidiciopietro - yes	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 August 2022. (Attachment #5)
2. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of August 2022 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of August 2022; and

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**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 August 2022:

the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of August 2022 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for August 2022 as submitted and certified (Attachment #6).

3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Berkeley Heights Governor Livingston High School General Education Tuition Agreement Contract for the 2022-2023 school year in the amount of \$4,849,439.00 less a credit of \$75,195.00 for prior tuition adjustments for a total of \$4,774,244.00 (Attachment #7).
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the shared services agreement for Class II Officer between the Mountainside Board of Education and the Borough of Mountainside for the 2022-2023 school year. (Attachment #8)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the agreement with MUJC to provide transportation for the Extended School Year 2022-2023. (Attachment #9)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, special education placements and services as per (Attachment #10).

**XV. Personnel**

*Mrs. Walling and the board acknowledged the retirement of Mr. DeVico, and thanked him for his many years of service to the district. His dedication and knowledge of our buildings will be missed and his expertise will be difficult to replace.*

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

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro      Seconded: Mrs. Schiano

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

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of **Wayne DeVico**, Supervisor of Maintenance and Custodial Services, effective December 31, 2022, and thank him for his outstanding 31 years of service to the Mountainside School District. (Attachment #11)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the extension of unpaid family leave for **Elizabeth Shimwell**, from November 28, 2022 through June 30, 2023. She anticipates returning to work at the start of the 23/24 school year. (Attachment #12)

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3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff members to serve as mentors during the 2022-2023 school year:

<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Fee Amount</b>
<b>Kathleen Goldbeck</b>	<b>Catherine Francisco</b> 30 weeks: 10/17/22-5/26/23	\$550 (CEAS)
<b>Susan Burke</b>	<b>Brittney Oliveira</b> 30 weeks:10/17/22-5/26/23	\$550 (CEAS)
<b>Lori Topel</b>	<b>Madison Phillips</b> 30 weeks: 10/17/22-5/26/23	\$550 (CEAS)
<b>Paige Primmer</b>	<b>Gabriela Karch</b> 30 weeks: 10/17/22-5/26/23	\$1,000 (CE)

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a medical leave of absence for **Employee #90184532**, from September 1, 2022 through approximately November 30, 2022, pending updated doctor's note.
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Desiree Baroody** to provide supplemental instruction for student #9074404763, 2 hours/week at a rate of \$44.00/hour, effective for the 2022/2023 school year.
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of the following to the 2022-2023 Substitute Teacher List, pending paperwork and successful criminal background check. (Attachment #13)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Certification</b>	<b>Rate</b>
<b>Mairen Lenehan</b>	Sub. Cert pending w/ degree	\$115
<b>Fernando Melo</b>	Sub Cert. (pending)	\$105
<b>Jim Silance</b>	Sub. Cert 1/3/25 w/ degree	\$115

7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff for 2022-2023 School Year Stipend Positions, contingent upon student enrollment for those student activities subsidized in accordance with Board Policy 2436, Activity Participation Fee Program.

<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Rate</b>
April Starling	Health Bee	\$35.00/session NTE 10 sessions

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**XVI. Curriculum**

The following motion was not approved by roll call vote: **Curriculum #1**

Moved: Mr. Dillon      Seconded: Mr. Venes  
RC:      Dillon - no      Guidici Pietro - no      Hyman - yes      Pupo - no  
            Ruban - no      Schiano - no      Venes -no

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following curricular documents for Mountainside Schools: (Attachment #14-16)

Subject Area	Grade Levels
Health and Family Life	Grades K-2 (Attachment #14) Grades 3-5 (Attachment #15) Grades 6-8 (Attachment #16)

**XVII. Policy**

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

Moved: Mr. Hyman      Seconded: Mrs. Schiano  
RC:      Dillon - yes      Guidici Pietro - yes      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:

P 2425 R 2425	Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program	Revised/Mandated New
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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 1511	Board of Education Website Accessibility	New/Mandated
P 2415	Every Student Succeeds Act	Revised/Mandated
P 5512	Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying	Revised/Mandated
P 5513 R 5513	Care of School Property	Revised/Mandated New/Mandated
P 5722	Student Journalism	New/Mandated

**XVIII. Old Business - none**

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- XIX. New Business** -Dr. Guidici Pietro mentioned the PTO fall festival is coming up. Mr. Dillon asked for an update on our 5-Year Strategic Plan. Mrs. Walling responded that the new District Goals will align with many of the same points as the Strategic Plan, so they will look again at this in the near future. Mrs. Pupo mentioned that the new library director, Mrs. Shaw is amazing and is trying to reorganize and draw more people to visit like pre-covid times to support the library.
- XX. Committee Reports** - Mr. Dillon mentioned the Buildings and Grounds/Finance Committee met recently, where they discussed revising the building use form.
- XXI. Public Participation** - Members of the community thanked the board for listening to the public opposition to the Health Curriculum, and for the work that went into it all. Mr. Ruban commented that he respects the board members and the difficult decisions they are sometimes faced with. He is confident that they vote in ways they think is right, and in the best interest of the school district. He thanked the community for remaining respectful.
- XXII. Adjournment** - Resolution (Attachment #1)  
A motion was made by Dr. Guidici Pietro at 9:42 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Pupo to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 7 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Steven Robinson  
Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary