

Mountainside Board of Education

Meeting Highlights

April 26, 2022



This newsletter provides a monthly summary of discussions and actions taken at the Mountainside Board of Education meetings.

These are not the official minutes. Please check our website for the official minutes and additional information.

Our meetings are recorded and can be viewed on our website.

Mountainside School District Board of Education

James W. Ruban, Jr. (President), Dana Guidici Pietro (Vice President)
 Bill Dillon, Jordan Hyman, Vivian Pupo
 Candice Schiano, Carmine Venes

Administrative Team

Janet Walling, Superintendent of Schools
 Steven Robinson, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary
 Suzanne Jenks, Principal – Deerfield School
 Jessica Vierschilling, Principal – Beechwood School
 Sheri Rouleau, Supervisor of Special Services

Action Items	Action Taken
Approval of Minutes	<p><i>BOE approved minutes for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 22, 2022 Regular Session • March 22, 2022 1st and 2nd Executive Sessions
Superintendent's Report	<p>Mrs. Walling began with information on NJSLA testing for 3rd-8th graders. The district is part of an ELA field test for this test as well. BW participated in an American Heart Association fundraiser raising \$17,000. She thanked volunteers and Mr. Worswick for their involvement. DF 6th-8th graders are raising funds for MEF with Penny Wars. Mrs. Walling attended MSBL opening day baseball, which was great. She is pleased to bring back many traditions, like the DC trip, art shows, concerts and bike rodeo. She pointed out the new math program on the agenda, and thanked Mrs. Crisafulli and 13 teachers for their research and piloting of the program. This should be an easy transition and is aligned with BH. Mrs. Walling mentioned the new Share 911 emergency system added for enhanced communication. This summer, Summer Learning Academy will be offered. Mr. Hyman asked some questions, to which Mrs. Walling responded. Mr. Venes asked about test scores and Mrs. Walling responded that most districts expect dips as Gr. 3-5 students never took state tests. She thanked Mrs. Goldbeck for working with students on technology aspects and teachers on testing protocols.</p>
Business Administrator's Report	<p>Mr. Robinson began the public hearing as he presented the final proposed budget. He noted it's been advertised, and approved by the county superintendent. He shared the few adjustments made since the draft budget, in areas of GL tuition, transportation, supplies and health insurance. He answered board members' questions, noting the total remains the same and at cap.</p>
BH Liaison Report	<p>Mr. Hyman noted there was no meeting since his last report. The next meeting is on 4/28. On the agenda will be a new football coach and a discussion about French.</p>
Administration	<p><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> HIB reports from 3/8 and 3/10; Comprehensive Equity Plan SOA for 22/23; Lead Testing SOA for 21/22; Big Ideas 5 year Math Curriculum for K-5; BW & DF March safety and security drill reports.</p>
Budget and Finance	<p><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Budget transfers for Mar. 2022; Payment of the Bill List; Board Secretary Reports for Mar. 2022; 22/23 SY final budget; Acceptance of Watts Foundation \$6,000 grant for DF library; JAG Consulting for technology services for 22/23 SY; Appointment of IMAC Insurance Agency as broker for health benefits; Special Education placements and services; School District Travel.</p>
Personnel	<p><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, BOE approved:</i> The resignation of Jill Spekhardt, K Teacher, effective 7/1/22, and thank her for her dedication to the District; Appointment of Kristi Lange, Special Education Teacher, effective 4/19/22-6/30/22; Per diem rate correction for Kirsten Post, 4th Grade Leave Replacement, as \$190; Appointment of Dylan Capparelli and Luke Williams as substitute and summer custodians; Appointment of list of SLA instructors; Addition of Kristi Lange to ESY staffing list from 7/5-8/4/22; Addition of Caitlin McGarrity to Child Study Team summer staffing list from 6/22-8/31/22.</p>

Policy	<i>BOE had the first reading of the following policies:</i>		
	P 2622	Student Assessment	Revised/Mandated
	R 2622	Student Assessment	New/Mandated
	P & R 2431.4	Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries	Revised/Mandated
	R 8420.7	Lockdown Procedures	New/Mandated
	<i>BOE had the second reading and adoption of the following policies:</i>		
	P 2415.05	Student Surveys, Analysis, Evaluations, Examinations, Testing or Treatment	Revised/Mandated
	R 2460.30	Additional/Compensatory Special Education and Related Services	New/Mandated
	P 9560	Administration of School Surveys	Revised/Mandated
	Old Business	Mr. Hyman discussed proposed changes to Nepotism policy 0142.1. Mrs. Walling will follow up with legal advice on if these changes, and the Board can decide how to proceed.	
New Business	Dr. Guidici Pietro, PTO Liaison, reminded everyone that the PTO Spring Fundraiser will be on 5/18. Mrs. Pupo, Library Liaison, met on 4/18. She noted the new library director resigned. The library is open with masks recommended.		
Committee Reports	Mr. Venes mentioned the Negotiation Committee will be meeting tomorrow. Mr. Dillon commented that the Budget & Finance Committee met yesterday, reviewed the budget, noting it aligned with our district goals, and thanked Steve for his work on it.		
Public Comments	None		

Our website: www.mountainsideschools.org

Please contact the office of the Mountainside BOE for additional information or questions: [908-232-3232](tel:908-232-3232).