

# Mountainside Board of Education

## Meeting Highlights

### May 10, 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	<i>BOE approved minutes for:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>April 26, 2022 Regular Session</li> <li>April 26, 2022 1st and 2nd Executive Sessions</li> </ul>
Superintendent's Report	Mrs. Walling began with recognizing the retirement of custodian, Mr. Sieczkowski and thanked him for 27 ½ years of service. He humbly thanked the Board for the opportunity to work in Mountainside, and will treasure his memories of the staff and students over the years. Next, Mrs. Rouleau presented an overview of the Special Education Department, with details on this year's programming, and a look ahead. Board members asked questions, to which she responded. Mrs. Walling continued that it was Teacher Appreciation Week and School Nurses Day. She thanked the PTO for providing lunch, and thanked the principals for special treats provided to staff. She complimented Mr. Wise for a great kindergarten outdoor concert, and mentioned upcoming concerts in other grades. She thanked Mr. Young for organizing the 8th Grade trip to Washington DC. Grade 5 participated in a D.A.R.E. trip to Patriot's Stadium. Other trips and activities are planned for the weeks ahead, including 3rd Grade orientation. NJSLA testing is ongoing, she thanked Mrs. Goldbeck for her work on it, and Mr. Whitaker and Mr. Gonzalez for keeping the technology running smoothly. In June, principals from both schools will have presentations. She addressed bus issues, noting the board office is working on solutions, and thanked Mrs. Bolton for her efforts in transportation.
Business Administrator's Report	Mr. Robinson mentioned that there will be 3 board seats up for the November 8th election. Interested candidates need to file a nomination petition by July 25 to the county clerk's office. Information is available on our website.
BH Liaison Report	Mr. Hyman reported from the 4/28 meeting that the budget was approved, including a new French teacher, football coach and CMS principal. There were various student activities and sports updates as well. Dr. Varley presented her 1st Student of the Month award. The "Big Ideas" math curriculum was approved, and they thanked the partnership with Mountainside with the research on aligning our programs. Also mentioned was the start of a new college jumpstart program.
Administration	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Holidays for administrators and secretaries for 22/23 SY; Holidays for Maintenance Dept. for 22/23 SY; BW & DF April safety and security drill reports; BW & DF Bus Evacuation drill reports.
Budget and Finance	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Budget transfers for Apr. 2022; Payment of the Bill List; Board Secretary Reports for Apr. 2022; Agreement with Next Step Pediatric Therapy for PT and evaluations for ESY and 22/23 SY; Annual renewal of Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of NJ as health benefits provider for the District from 7/1/22-6/30/23; Contract with Bayada Home Health Care from 4/22/22-8/31/22 to provide nursing services as needed.

**Personnel** *As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:*  
 The certified tenured personnel list for 22/23 SY; the certificated non-tenured personnel list for 22/23 SY; secretaries and custodians list for 22/23 SY; Nicole Cruets and Taylor Donato to the staffing list for Summer Learning Academy from 7/5/22-7/28/22, and removal of Deborah Posner from the list, as requested; Maternity Disability leave for Rebecca Tafaro, Special Education teacher, effective 9/27/22-1/19/23; Notification to take classes for Desiree Ganz, Special Education teacher, for Orton Gillingham summer classes at Fairleigh Dickinson.

**Curriculum** *As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:*

Date	Destination	Grade	Teacher in Charge	Estimated Cost
6/1/22	Field Station Dinosaurs	2	Sue Goracy	\$1205.00-Admission-Paid by PTO \$225.00-Admission-Paid by Chaperones \$499.00-Buses-Paid by PTO \$689.00-Buses-Paid by Student Act.Acct.
6/6/22	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gr. DF Orientation	2	Sue Goracy	\$350.00-Buses-Paid by BOE
6/9/22	VonThun's Country Farm	K	Stephanie DeBaun	\$1120.00-Admission-Paid by PTO \$320.00-Admission-Paid by Chaperones \$560.00-Buses-Paid by PTO \$628.00-Buses-Paid by Student Act. Acct.
6/14/22	Turtle Back Zoo	1	Janelle Lauterbach	\$970.00-Admission-Paid by PTO \$200.00-Admission-Paid by Chaperones \$1080.00-Buses-Paid by PTO

**Policy** *BOE had the first reading of the following policies:*

P 2417	Student Intervention and Referral Services	Revised/Mandated
P 3161	Examination for Cause	Revised/Recommended
P 4161	Examination for Cause	Revised/Recommended
P 7410 R 7410	Maintenance and Repair	Revised/Mandated New/Mandated
P 8420	Emergency and Crisis Situations	Revised/Mandated

*BOE had the second reading and adoption of the following policies:*

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

**Old Business** Mr. Venes noted the negotiation meeting will be rescheduled. Mr. Ruban discussed reviewing the nepotism policy. Mrs. Walling provided updates on it from Strauss Esmay and Mrs. Machado that the board can consider moving forward. Mr. Venes asked about a fire alarm response at DF, to which Mrs. Walling responded about her communications with the police chief.

**New Business** Mr. Hyman asked about crossing guards at DF, to which Mrs. Walling noted that the police dept. is in charge of that position. Mr. Hyman asked for an update on the new DF digital sign. Mrs. Walling responded that the various steps for installation are in the works. Mr. Dillon asked to review the Strategic Plan as a board, to which everyone agreed to do annually.

**Committee Reports** None

**Public Comments** None

Our website: [www.mountainsideschools.org](http://www.mountainsideschools.org)

Please contact the office of the Mountainside BOE for additional information or questions: 908-232-3232.