

Mountainside Board of Education

Meeting Highlights

June 28, 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"> May 10, 2022 Regular Session May 10, 2022 Executive Session
Superintendent's Report	Mrs. Walling thanked administrators, staff, custodians, and everyone for their efforts for end of the year activities. Extended School Year and Summer Learning Academy, as well as Actor's Camp will start after July 4th. She thanked the board for attending 8th Gr. graduation. She reported the HIB Self-Assessment. This information is on the website. Mrs. Walling continued with a presentation on her overall District goals, and invited Mrs. Jenks and Mrs. Vierschilling to participate with detailed information on various aspects from each school. Mrs. Walling answered some questions from the Board at the conclusion of the presentation. Mrs. Vierschilling recapped her 1st year in Mountainside, commenting on the great staff, students and initiatives at Beechwood. Mrs. Jenks shared a year in review and thanked all the Deerfield staff for making it a success.
Business Administrator's Report	Mr. Robinson provided an update on the transportation bid that was out today, we received 2 bids. Decisions will be made by the July meeting.
BH Liaison Report	Mr. Hyman noted there were 2 meetings since our last. On 5/25, Berkeley Heights recognized Educators of the Year, retirees, and accepted resignations. They highlighted where some seniors are going to college. They covered various student updates. On 6/16, the outgoing superintendent, Scott McKinney was honored. The new assistant superintendent, David Greer, was announced. Next meeting Aug. 11th, and will be via Zoom.
Administration	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> HIB reports; Superintendent's merit goals for 21/22 SY; Security Drill SOA; Comprehensive Equity Plan SOA; Waiver for PK & K toilet rooms for 22/23 SY; Music Curriculum K-8; BW & DF May safety and security drill reports.
Budget and Finance	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Budget transfers for May. 2022; Payment of the Bill List; Board Secretary Reports for May. 2022; Memorandum of Agreement with BOE and MEA from July 1, 2022-June 30, 2025; Tax payment schedule for 22/23 SY; BA authorized to complete any and all actions to close 21/22 fiscal year and open 22/23; BA to make transfers up to \$300,000 to Capital Reserves and \$200,000 to Tuition Reserves; IDEA Consolidated grant funds; ESSA grant application for fiscal year 22/23; Contract with Maschio's Food Service for 22/23 SY; 5-yr. agreement with United Business Systems to provide 5 new Canon machines; Contract with Progressive Therapy of NJ for BCBA services for 22/23 SY; Tuition agreement with UCVTS for 22/23; Joint transportation agreement with Garwood for ESY and 22/23 SY; Transportation agreement with MUJC to Banyan School from 4/4/22-6/30/22; Re-appointment of Paula Hatch, treasurer; Right to Know Asbestos Mgmt. Services from RAMM Environmental Services Inc.; Submission of ARP and HCY applications and accept grant funds of \$1,360; Parent transportation contract for \$3,435 for 22/23 ESY and regular SY; Special Education placements and services; School District Travel.

Personnel *As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:*
 Contract renewal for Janet Walling, Superintendent, from 7/1/22-6/30/25; Contract renewal for Steven Robinson as Interim BA for 22/23 SY; rehiring of non-affiliated personnel; paraprofessional list for 22/23; Appointment of Teresa Banks, K teacher for 22/23 SY; Appointment of Deb Posner to stipend position Athletic Director; Maternity Disability leave for Nicole Mansfield from 9/1/22-6/30/23; Maternity Disability leave for Kristin Eckert from 10/24/22-6/30/23; Addition of Jen Smith, Special Ed. teacher for ESY; Rescinding of Laurie Naftulin and Holly Ambrose from ESY staffing list from 3/22/22; Addition of Laurie Naftulin to Summer Learning Academy staff list; Appointment of Nicole Cruets, Kathleen Goldbeck, & Barbi Higinbotham for summer curriculum writing, NTE 20 hrs./pp.; Kathleen Goldbeck for summer hours, NTE 70 hours.

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

Date	Destination	Grade	Teacher in Charge	Estimated Cost
5/26/22	Linden Bowling Lanes	7	Gary Chan	\$1,040: tickets paid by PTO \$ 648: buses paid by PTO
5/26/22	Liberty Science Center	3/4	Lori Topel	\$ 3,483: tickets paid by students \$ 600: tickets paid by chaperones \$ 48: paid by Student Activities \$3,800: buses paid by PTO

2. Previously approved on 3/22/22, at a cost of \$350, motion to approve revised transportation costs as \$700 due to additional bus runs to Trailside for Teen Arts, to be paid by the BOE.

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

P 9320 R 9320	Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies	Revised/Mandated New/Mandated
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BOE had the second reading and adoption 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

Old Business Mrs. Walling addressed Nepotism policy changes as discussed previously. She received guidance from Mrs. Machado, who agreed with Strauss Esmay's advice. Mr. Hyman commented that he would still like to remove an optional clause and submit it for a first reading at the July meeting.

New Business Mr. Dillon discussed a fallen tree by DF, asking how the District assesses health of trees surrounding our properties. Mr. Robinson responded that Mr. DeVico reviews this, and he will bring in tree experts to look over concerns and make recommendations, noting safety is most important.

Committee Reports Mrs. Pupo, Library Liaison, met new director, Tammy Shaw, who is eager to start at the end of July, and excited to partner with us. Mr. Venes, Negotiations Committee, noted they had a spirited negotiation and he thanked both sides for working together to come to an agreement. Mr. Dillon, Finance/Buildings & Grounds Committee, reviewed relationships we have for various services. Recommendations are in this agenda regarding bussing bids, food service, & copier contracts. They also discussed how to get monies back into Capital and Tuition Reserves. He also echoed the compliments on the constructive and positive experience with negotiations.

Public Comments A member of the public voiced her concern for not recognizing Honor Roll students this year. She asked that in the future, we consider recognizing these hard working students, perhaps consider joining the National Junior Honor Society. The Board thanked her for her comments.