

# Mountainside Board of Education

## Meeting Highlights

### March 14, 2023



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

Vivian Pupo (President), Dana Guidici Pietro (Vice President)  
 Bill Dillon, Michael Goodwin, Jordan Hyman,  
 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>February 21, 2023 Regular Session</li> <li>February 21, 2023 Executive Session</li> </ul>
Correspondence	none
Public Participation	none
President's Report	Mrs. Pupo congratulated the cast and crew on their performances with the middle school musical, The Music Man. She also wished good luck to all of the students participating in the upcoming PTO Science Fair.
Superintendent's Report	Mrs. Walling congratulated the students and staff for their outstanding performance of the Music Man over the weekend. Mr. Rosenblum introduced a quartet, who performed a scene from Music Man for the Board. Mrs. Walling was pleased that the senior performance, with support from the MEA, was back for the first time in nearly 4 years. There was a live-stream of the play as a sensory room opportunity for students to enjoy the musical in a comfortable setting. She mentioned Read Across America week just wrapped up, she was pleased to read aloud with various classes. Student council did a cereal drive, with a domino challenge, then spent time at a food pantry. The board noted how talented the students and staff are who worked on the musical.
Business Administrator's Report	Mr. Robinson, together with Mrs. Walling presented the tentative budget for 2023-2024 at the March board meeting. Mr. Robinson was pleased that we are able to maintain all of our current programming. He mentioned we are funding 2 full time Class II officers, and are looking to get a vehicle and part-time custodian/CDL driver, as well as various facility upgrades. He noted the state aid received by Mountainside is significantly lower than average districts, and that 21.6% of the budget is for tuition for GL and Vo-Tech. We saved money by changing to State Health Benefits, and by expanding our Special Education programming as well as Bond Refunding and working with various consortiums. We are within cap, so there is no requirement to vote on this budget. He was amazed for the first time ever to say the tax impact is -(\$4) per household. He took questions from the Board. There was significant discussion about high school student numbers and the tuition impact.
BH Liaison Report	Mr. Hyman reported from the 3/13 mtg. where the preliminary budget was presented. Ms. Kot described the "fiscal cliff" in BH, with factors like teacher's contract, OOD placements, rising transportation costs affecting the \$1.6 million dollar gap. They plan on restructuring the admin. team and \$150K cuts in staff, office staff, and athletics. He provided winter sports and Robotics updates. Jrs. are completing state testing, and Hilltop Players will be performing next week.
Administration	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Affirmed HIB investigations from 2/1/23-2/21/23; February BW/DF safety and security drill reports.

<b>Budget and Finance</b>	<b><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i></b> Payment of the Bill Lists; Submission of tentative budget; Golden Arrow Bus Co. to provide transportation for spring sports; Addendum to Tri-County Behavioral Care; Special Education placements and services; School District Travel/Professional Development.								
<b>Personnel</b>	<b><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i></b> Retirement of Julie Goerlich, effective July 1, 2023; Retirement of Pat Bruce, effective July 1, 2023; Appointment of Kirsten Post as Leave Replacement for Art 3/29-6/21/23; Appointment of April Lachica-Campos as Leave Replacement for Kindergarten 3/15-6/21/23; Bruce Litinger Spec. Ed. Consultant LLC as Leave Replacement for Social Worker 4/11-10/31/23; Request to extend unpaid family leave for Kristin Eckert from 9/1/23-1/1/24; Reimbursement for Desiree Baroody for classes in the amount of \$150; Appointment of Catherine Hart to the position of paraprofessional, SStep 1, \$26.05/hr. from 3/15-6/21/23; Appointment of Fallon Heron as lunch aide, pending paperwork and successful criminal background; Additions to the substitute list for 22/23 SY H. Gutowski, M. Maloney, A. DiVito, L. McGovern-Worgan; Medical leave for Employee #69142933 effective 3/20/-4/13/23; Clinical training hours for Rebecca Ladenheim with Lisa Bruno; CST staffing for summer; ESY staffing including nurse, special ed. teachers and paraprofessionals; Stipend Positions; Appointment of Paul Litwa, Technology Coordinator, at prorated salary of \$90,000 effective 4/3/23.								
<b>Curriculum</b>	<b><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field trips as detailed to the BOE</li> </ul>								
<b>Policy</b>	<b><i>BOE had the first reading of the following policies/regulations:</i></b> <table border="1" data-bbox="342 751 1511 890"> <tr> <td>P 5200</td> <td>Attendance</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R 5200</td> <td>Attendance</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> </table>			P 5200	Attendance	Revised/Mandated	R 5200	Attendance	Revised/Mandated
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<b>Old Business</b>	Mrs. Walling proposed revision options for the last 2 of 4 unused "give back" snow days. The Board discussed the options at length and voted to amend the 2022-2023 school year calendar, to give back 2 final unused snow days on June 16 and 21st.								
<b>New Business</b>	Mr. Goodwin reported after his first meeting with the library as liaison. They approved the 2023 budget, discussed upcoming roof repairs, and were pleased with a great turnout for their open house for adults and children. Dr. Guidici Pietro reminded everyone of the PTO Spring 80's theme fundraiser on 3/23. She also noted some sports updates: NJ Youth Wrestling Championships matches, Nick Schiano took 2nd place, and Ryder Bernholz took 3rd. Also 6th and 7th grade PAL basketball teams finished 1st in their brackets to go onto the championships. She congratulated all of the athletes. Mr. Dillon reported as Borough Liaison that they met with the township to discuss the ongoing partnership with SLEO officers and the budget impact.								
<b>Committee Reports</b>	Mrs. Schiano discussed the Curriculum Committee meeting where they went through the Attendance Policy with administration discussing the suggested revisions and reviewed a Tardy Policy for future approval, taking into consideration various approaches to it based on grade levels. Mr. Dillon noted the Budget & Finance committee met several times to discuss what was presented tonight in the tentative budget.								
<b>Public Comments</b>	none								

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

Please contact the office of the Mountainside BOE for additional information or questions: 908-301-9104