

Mountainside Board of Education

Meeting Highlights

August 20, 2024



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
 Dana Sullivan, 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"> Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 18, 2024 Minutes of the 1st Executive Session of June 18, 2024 Minutes of the 2nd Executive Session of June 18, 2024
Correspondence	Thank you note to the Board from Mrs. Ciasulli.
Public Participation	none
President's Report	none
Superintendent's Report	Mrs. Walling reported that Summer Learning Academy (SLA) and ESY wrapped up and went well. This was the last year for SLA due to the end of ARP funding, but can be revisited in the future. Genesis will be opening on Friday at 3:00 for schedules and teacher assignments. Fines must be paid before access will be available. New staff orientation will be taking place next week on Wednesday and Thursday. Mrs. Crisafulli and Mrs. Cruz will meet with staff to go over our math and reading curriculum. All staff will be returning after Labor Day for mandated training and other essential overviews; Grades K-3 will have the opportunity to visit classrooms, and there's a 6th Grade Parent Orientation. Mrs. Walling thanked the custodial staff for getting the buildings ready, and thanked her administrators and office staff for their hard work over the summer. In technology, we will finish updating cameras and new copiers next week. Necessary tree removal has concluded. We look forward to having students back.
Business Administrator's Report	Mrs. Sullivan noted we replaced all of our network switches which was a big project, partially funded by E-rate. HVAC projects are on the agenda to affirm necessary services to these systems. These projects will be completed in the next few weeks. The business office has been closing out the books from last year, and placing orders for this year. We are awaiting some final information from the state, but as soon as we have that, the auditors will present their final report to the Board.
BH Liaison Report	Mr. Hyman reported from the last 3 meetings. On 6/20, they voted to extend contracts for R. Nixon as acting Superintendent and J. Bartlett's, as acting GL Principal until 9/30; they hired several new staff, a new law firm, and new auditors; approved new Chromebooks and a new phone system; approved Lower Columbia Field Use Agreement to lease to the township; discussed cost field lights and press box at GL; Mountainside Committee feedback about the consultative model and request for deeper special education presentation, possibly in Sept.; 15 applicants for Superintendent with 1st and 2nd round of interviews taking place, hoping to hire for Jan. 1st; Mr. Nixon reviewed test scores; approved Mountainside Tuition Agreements; approved field trips.
Administration	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved for 24/25:</i> HIB Reports; Comprehensive Equity Plan SOA; Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan; SCiP Committee; Use of Charlotte Danielson 2013 Rating System for staff evaluations; Use of NJ Principal Evaluation for Professional Learning Observation Instrument for administrators' evaluations; SSDS Report for 23/24; Student Handbooks; BW/DF June and July drills.

Budget and Finance	<p><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Budget transfers for June 2024; Payment of the Bill Lists; Board Secretary Report for June; Application and acceptance of IDEA Consolidated Grants; Shared Services Agreement for Class II Officers for 24/25 and 25/26; Tuition Agreements with Governor Livingston for General Tuition and Resource Room; Joint Transportation Agreement with Garwood Public Schools; Building use for Girls on the Run; Withdrawal from maintenance reserves for HVAC; Parent transportation contract; Acceptance of FY24 Nonpublic School Transportation Aid and Extraordinary Aid; Acceptance of grant for ACSERS for revised amount for the 23/24 SY; Agreement with Golden Arrow for fall sports transportation; Agreement with G2 Athletics, LLC for after school program 9/12-12/5; Building use agreement with Original Hoopers, LLC; Student Activities Fees for 24/25; Addition of DC Fagen Psychological Services for evaluations/consultations as needed; School District Travel; Spec. Ed. placements and services; Acceptance of PTO donation; Contract with Sarah's Spanish School.</p>																												
Personnel	<p><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Appointment of new hires for 24/25; Acceptance of resignations; Rescind L. Klein and C. Kiesewetter as lunch aides; Substitute List; Stipend List; P. Conte to assist with office duties as needed; N. Crisafulli to present new teacher training on Big Ideas Math; M. Cruz to present new teacher training on ELA programs; J. Goldstein for LDTC summer hours; R. Kuznedelov and A. Ross for Anti-Bullying Specialist planning meeting hours; Notification to take classes for S. Goracy; Notification to take class and reimbursement for J. Smith; A. Cuccio to complete graduate program observation hours with L. Morrelli.</p>																												
Policy	<p><i>BOE had the first reading of the following policies/regulations:</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="344 730 1563 1073"> <tr> <td>P 2200</td> <td>Curriculum Content</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P/R 3160</td> <td>Physical Examinations</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P/R 4160</td> <td>Physical Examinations</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 8467</td> <td>Firearms and Weapons</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 9181</td> <td>Volunteer Athletic Coaches and Co-Curricular Activity Advisors/Assistants</td> <td>Revised</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>BOE had the second reading and adoption of the following policies/regulations:</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="344 1136 1563 1320"> <tr> <td>P 3211</td> <td>Code of Ethics</td> <td>Revised/Recommended</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 5570</td> <td>Sportsmanship</td> <td>Revised/Recommended</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 5842</td> <td>Equal Access of Student Organizations</td> <td>Revised/Recommended</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>BOE abolished the following policies/regulations:</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="344 1383 1563 1446"> <tr> <td>P 0164.6</td> <td>Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency</td> </tr> </table>			P 2200	Curriculum Content	Revised/Mandated	P/R 3160	Physical Examinations	Revised/Mandated	P/R 4160	Physical Examinations	Revised/Mandated	P 8467	Firearms and Weapons	Revised/Mandated	P 9181	Volunteer Athletic Coaches and Co-Curricular Activity Advisors/Assistants	Revised	P 3211	Code of Ethics	Revised/Recommended	P 5570	Sportsmanship	Revised/Recommended	P 5842	Equal Access of Student Organizations	Revised/Recommended	P 0164.6	Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency
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Old Business	none																												
New Business	none																												
Committee Reports	Mrs. Schiano discussed the Curriculum Committee meeting from earlier today and discussed the Student Handbooks, the Spanish program, ESL programs, and other state mandates.																												
Public Comments	none																												

Our website: www.mountainsideschools.org

Please contact the office of the Mountainside BOE for additional information or questions: 908-232-8828