

## Mountainside School District

Beechwood School - 1497 Woodacres Drive, Mountainside, NJ 07092  
Deerfield School - 302 Central Avenue, Mountainside, NJ 07092

For agenda attachments available to the public, please contact the Mountainside Board of Education Office at (908) 232-3232 or peruse same at the respective meeting.  
Also, Mountainside Board of Education policies may be accessed via the district website.

### I. Call to Order

A Regular Meeting of the Mountainside Board of Education of the Borough of Mountainside in the County of Union, New Jersey was called to order by Mr. James Ruban, Jr., at 7:00 p.m. in the Deerfield School Media Center, 302 Central Avenue, Mountainside, New Jersey.

### II. Roll Call

At roll call, the following members were present:

Dr. Dana Guidici Pietro  
Mr. Jordan Hyman  
Mr. Christopher Minks  
Mr. James Ruban, Jr.  
Mrs. Candice Schiano  
Mr. Carmine Venes

Also present were Dr. Lubarsky, Chief School Administrator, Steve DiGeronimo, Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

Mr. Dante Gioia arrived after roll call at 7:40 p.m.

### III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

Moved: Guidici Pietro Seconded: Venes

RC:

Gioia -absent Guidici Pietro -yes Hyman -yes Ruban -yes  
Minks -yes Schiano -yes Venes -yes

**WHEREAS**, Section 7 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 (R.S. 10:4-13), permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting or portion of a meeting of this public body in circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board must consider matter(s) involving the following:

1. Legal/Personnel

The disclosure of which could constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy; now

**WHEREAS**, the discussion of individual items to be considered by the Board in closed session may be made public once the need for confidentiality no longer exists, but the Board cannot state at the present time then that will be.

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**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board adjourn to executive session at 7:04 p.m. to discuss the above mentioned matter to the exclusion of all others. Matters discussed may or may not be made public this evening. If an action results, it will be taken following reentry into regular session.

**IV. Close Executive Session and Reconvene Public Session**

Moved: Guidicipietro Seconded: Venes

RC:

Gioia -yes    Guidicipietro -yes    Hyman -yes    Ruban -yes  
Minks -yes    Schiano                    -yes    Venes -yes

The public meeting reconvened at 8:04 p.m.

**V. Flag Salute**

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

Moved: Minks    Seconded: Gioia

RC:

Gioia -yes    Guidicipietro -yes    Hyman -yes    Ruban -yes  
Minks -yes    Schiano                    -yes    Venes -yes

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 26, 2019
- ❖ Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Session of February 26, 2019
- ❖ Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Session of February 26, 2019
- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 5, 2019
- ❖ Minutes of the Special Executive Session of March 5, 2019
- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 7, 2019
- ❖ Minutes of the Special Executive Session of March 7, 2019
- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 12, 2019
- ❖ Minutes of the Special Executive Session of March 12, 2019
- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 18, 2019
- ❖ Minutes of the Special Executive Session of March 18, 2019

**VII. Correspondence -none**

**VIII. Public Participation – none**

**IX. President's Report**

Mr. Ruban updated the status of the Superintendent search. He noted a candidate was selected, and the Board is negotiating the contract in hopes of having a special meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup> for final approval.

**X. Chief School Administrator's Report**

- Dr. Lubarsky recognized the Teachers/Educational Service Professionals and Support Staff Members of the Year.

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- Dr. Lubarsky thanked the Watts Foundation and the Rake and Hoe Garden Club for grants to be used for Deerfield stage curtains and an outdoor learning center, respectively.
- Dr. Lubarsky mentioned that Mountainside was designated by the NAMM Foundation as one of the 2019 Best Communities for Music Education.
- Dr. Lubarsky mentioned Gina Fabio won a Union County “I Voted” sticker contest.
- Dr. Lubarsky pointed out Mountainside’s significant improvement on PARCC scores and thanked teachers and students for their hard work.
- Dr. Lubarsky mentioned a PTO Safety and Security Parent Workshop on April 1<sup>st</sup>
- Dr. Lubarsky mentioned calendar changes:
  - The April Board of Education meeting has been moved from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>
  - 3 unused snow days will be added back into the calendar as follows: 4/22, 5/24 and 5/28, subject to no additional emergency closings.

**XI. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report**

Mr. Gioia stated that Berkeley Heights is expected to announce their new Superintendent on 4/25. There was a discussion about full day Kindergarten. The high school recognized it’s Girls’ Swim Team, and the JV Girls’ softball and Girls’ Track Teams.

**XII. Administration**

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Administration #1-3**

Moved: Hyman Seconded: Guidicipietro

RC:

Gioia -yes    Guidicipietro -yes    Hyman -yes    Ruban -yes  
Minks -yes    Schiano                    -yes    Venes -yes

1. Move to accept the Chief School Administrator’s recommendations on HIB incident dated February 5, 2019.
2. Move to accept the Chief School Administrator’s recommendations on HIB incident dated February 11, 2019.
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools February 2019 safety and security drill reports (Attachment #2).

**XIII. Budget and Finance**

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-7**

Moved: Gioia    Seconded: Minks

RC:

Gioia -yes    Guidicipietro -yes    Hyman -yes    Ruban -yes  
Minks -yes    Schiano                    -yes    Venes -yes

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the month of February 2019 (Attachment #3).

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2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated March 1, 2018, through March 31, 2019 (Attachment #4).
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of February 2019 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of February 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board Secretary, Steven DiGeronimo, certifies that subject to the approval of budget transfers appended to these minutes, payment of the claims set forth in the accompanying bill list will not result in the over expenditure of any budget line item appropriation, as modified to date set forth in the level of detail contained in the Reports of the Board Secretary for February 2019:

**RESOLVED THAT**, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the month of February 2019 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for February 2019 as submitted and certified (Attachment #5).

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the acceptance of a \$5,800 grant from the Watts Foundation to be used for the purchase of curtains for the Deerfield School stage. (Attachment #6 )
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the acceptance of a \$2,000 grant from the Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield, to be used for the outdoor learning center at Deerfield School. (Attachment #7 )
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, special education placements and services as per (Attachment #8).
7. Move to approve in accordance with MBOE policy 6471, School District Travel, and upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the travel and related expenses itemized in (Attachment #9). This travel is deemed educationally necessary and fiscally prudent, and all travel expenditures shall be directly related to and within the scope of the staff member's current responsibilities and the district's Professional Development Plan.

**XIV. Personnel**

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Personnel #1-14**

Moved: Gioia Seconded: Minks

RC:

Gioia -yes Guidicipietro -yes Hyman -yes Ruban -yes  
Minks -yes Schiano -yes Venes -yes

1. **WHEREAS**, the Governor's Teacher Recognition Program was developed in 1985 for the purpose of acknowledging teachers who exhibit outstanding performance;

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Education Division of Academic and Career Standards promotes the Governor's Teacher Recognition Program;

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**WHEREAS**, the Union County Superintendent's Roundtable supports and sponsors an Annual Teacher Recognition Program for outstanding teachers in Union County;

**WHEREAS**, the Mountainside Board of Education strongly supports district teaching staff members in their endeavor to promote excellence in education;

**WHEREAS**, the criteria for selection of the recipient of the Governor's Teacher Recognition Program includes use of effective instructional techniques and methods; establishment of productive classroom climate and rapport with students; and development of feelings of self-worth and love of learning in students; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mountainside Board of Education recognizes and sincerely appreciates the dedicated services of Janine Cardone, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher, to the students of the Mountainside Public School District,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Janine Cardone is recognized as the Mountainside School District recipient of the Governor's Teacher Recognition Program Award for the 2018-19 school year; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution becomes a part of the official minutes of Mountainside Board of Education, and a copy forwarded to Janine Cardone.

2. **WHEREAS**, the Governor's Teacher Recognition Program was developed in 1985 for the purpose of acknowledging teachers who exhibit outstanding performance;

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Education Division of Academic and Career Standards promotes the Governor's Teacher Recognition Program;

**WHEREAS**, the Union County Superintendent's Roundtable supports and sponsors an Annual Teacher Recognition Program for outstanding teachers in Union County;

**WHEREAS**, the Mountainside Board of Education strongly supports district teaching staff members in their endeavor to promote excellence in education;

**WHEREAS**, the criteria for selection of the recipient of the Governor's Teacher Recognition Program includes use of effective instructional techniques and methods; establishment of productive classroom climate and rapport with students; and development of feelings of self-worth and love of learning in students; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mountainside Board of Education recognizes and sincerely appreciates the dedicated services of Amanda Somers-Guerrasio, School Psychologist, to the students of the Mountainside Public School District,

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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Amanda Somers-Guerrasio is recognized as the Mountainside School District recipient of the Governor's Teacher Recognition Program Award for the 2018-19 school year; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution becomes a part of the official minutes of Mountainside Board of Education, and a copy forwarded to Amanda Somers-Guerrasio.

3. **WHEREAS**, the Governor's Teacher Recognition Program was developed in 1985 for the purpose of acknowledging teachers who exhibit outstanding performance;

**WHEREAS**, the Mountainside Board of Education, using the teacher recognition program as a model, developed a District Support Staff Recognition Program in 2008-09.

**WHEREAS**, the Mountainside Board of Education strongly upholds our support staff members in their dedication and devotion to keeping the Mountainside School District functioning and providing assistance to the faculty so our students can learn;

**WHEREAS**, the Mountainside Board of Education recognizes and sincerely appreciates the dedicated services of Susan Gerakaris, Paraprofessional, at Deerfield School, to the students of the Mountainside Public School District,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Susan Gerakaris is recognized as the recipient of Mountainside School District Support Staff Member of the Year for the 2018-19 school year; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution becomes a part of the official minutes of Mountainside Board of Education, and a copy forwarded to Susan Gerakaris.

4. **WHEREAS**, the Governor's Teacher Recognition Program was developed in 1985 for the purpose of acknowledging teachers who exhibit outstanding performance;

**WHEREAS**, the Mountainside Board of Education, using the teacher recognition program as a model, developed a District Support Staff Recognition Program in 2008-09.

**WHEREAS**, the Mountainside Board of Education strongly upholds our support staff members in their dedication and devotion to keeping the Mountainside School District functioning and providing assistance to the faculty so our students can learn;

**WHEREAS**, the Mountainside Board of Education recognizes and sincerely appreciates the dedicated services of Marilyn Nacci, Paraprofessional, at Beechwood School, to the students of the Mountainside Public School District,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Marilyn Nacci, is recognized as the recipient of the Mountainside School District Support Staff Member of the Year for the 2018-19 school year; and

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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution becomes a part of the official minutes of Mountainside Board of Education, and a copy forwarded to Marilyn Nacci.

5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the addition of Lisa Circelli to the 2018-2019 Substitute Teacher List, pending approval of criminal background check (Attachment #10).
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the addition of Monica Tarabocchia to the 2018-2019 Substitute Teacher List, pending approval of criminal background check (Attachment #11).
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the following staff members for homebound instruction: Jeanne Albanese, Rachel Halek, and Maria DeAnna, not to exceed 10 hours per week, at a rate of \$39.71/hour, from March through August 2019.
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the following staff member for homebound instruction: Barbi Higinbotham, not to exceed 10 hours per week, at a rate of \$39.71/hour, beginning in March 2019, with end date to be determined.
9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the following staff member to serve as mentor for the 2018-2019 school year:

<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Amount (To be paid by mentee)</b>
Stephanie Iannello	Colleen Kelly 1st Grade Leave Replacement 4/1/19 –5/3/19 (5 weeks)	\$221.40

10. Move to approve, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the release of Christina Orozco from her duties and official position as Assistant Superintendent for Student Services and Instruction effective end of the business day on March 26, 2019 with pay and benefits through June 2019 as set forth in her employment contract.
11. Move to approve, that upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the reinstatement of the Supervisor of Special Education position, effective March 27, 2019 and for the 2019-2020 school year.
12. Move to approve, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the appointment of Ann Cooke as Interim Supervisor of Special Education effective March 27, 2019 through June 30, 2019 at the per diem rate of \$350 for approximately three (3) days a week at discretion of the Chief School Administrator, up to \$15,000. (Attachment #11A)

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13. Move to approve, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the appointment of Dana Peterson, as an Orton Gillingham Reading Instructor, for up to 3 hours per week, at the rate of \$100/hour, from April 1, 2019 to June 20, 2019. This is funded by Title I. (Attachment #11B)
14. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, request for tuition reimbursement from Adrienne Ridley, 6th Grade Language Arts Teacher, for class taken at Liberty University for the 2019 Spring Session for three (3) graduate credits in the amount of \$1,845.00 (Attachment #11C )

**XV. Curriculum**

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Curriculum #1**

Moved: Gioia Seconded: Venes

RC:

Gioia -yes Guidicipietro -yes Hyman -yes Ruban -yes  
Minks -yes Schiano -yes Venes -yes

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the following field trips for the 2018-2019 school year:

Date	Destination	Grade	Teacher in Charge	Estimated Cost
5/31/19	Spanish Tavern	8	Ms. Contreras Ms. Lavery	Students - \$1,700 BOE Buses - \$280
5/14/2019 Rain date: 5/21/2019	Staten Island Zoo	1	Jodi Groth	PTO Admission: \$480.00 PTO Buses: \$960.00 Chaperones will pay at the door. Their admission is not included.
5/8/2019	Jenkinson's Aquarium	K	Ms. Ianniello	PTO Admission: \$602.00 PTO Buses: Chaperones will pay at the door. Their admission is not included.

**XVI. Policy**

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Policy #1-2**

Moved: Guidicipietro Seconded: Venes

RC:

Gioia -yes Guidicipietro -yes Hyman -yes Ruban -yes  
Minks -yes Schiano -yes Venes -yes

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the following policies for first reading:

5600	Student Discipline/Code of Conduct	Revised / Mandated
5611	Removal of Students for Firearms Offenses	Revised / Mandated



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2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the following policies for second reading and adoption:

7440	School District Security	Revised / Mandated
8860	Memorials	Revised
5756	Transgender Students	Revised / Mandated
5111	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students	Revised / Mandated

**XVII. Old Business** - none

**XVIII. New Business** - none

**XIX. Committee Reports**

- Dr. Guidici Pietro mentioned the PTO Spring Fling fundraiser will be on Friday 3/29. The 50/50 with donate 25% of proceeds towards a scholarship in honor of Ms. Crilly.
- Mr. Minks mentioned the negotiations with the MEA have so far been successful after having 2 meetings thus far.

**XX. Public Participation**

A community member congratulated the Teachers and Staff Members of the Year and noted disappointment of personnel changes.

**XXI. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Minks at 8:45 p.m., seconded by Mr. Gioia to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 7 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Steven DiGeronimo  
Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary