

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
November 19, 2019**

MOUNTAINSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

BEECHWOOD SCHOOL - 1 497 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:

Mr. Dante Gioia
Mr. Jordan Hyman
Mr. James Ruban, Jr.
Mrs. Candice Schiano
Mr. Carmine Venes

Also present were Janet Walling, Superintendent of Schools, and Steve DiGeronimo, Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

Dr. Dana Guidici Pietro arrived after roll call at 7:10 and Mr. Christopher Minks arrived at 7:15

III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

Moved: Mr. Gioia Seconded: Mr. Venes

RC:

| | | | |
|---------------|------------------------|------------|------------|
| Gioia -yes | Guidici Pietro -absent | Hyman -yes | Ruban -yes |
| Minks -absent | 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.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board adjourn to executive session at 7:05 p.m. to discuss the above mentioned matter to the exclusion of all others. Matters discussed may or may

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
November 19, 2019**

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: Mr. Minks Seconded: Mr. Venes

RC:

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

The public meeting reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

V. Flag Salute

VI. Approval of Minutes

Moved: Mr. Gioia Seconded: Mr. Minks

RC:

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

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 22, 2019
- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of October 22, 2019

VII. Correspondence – Delayed until after Committee Reports

VIII. Public Participation - none

IX. President’s Report - none

X. Superintendent’s Report

Mrs. Walling recognized 6th, 7th and 8th grade winners of the Patriot’s Pen Essay Contest. She mentioned the PTO Parent Education Night that was informative and well attended. Mrs. Walling introduced Mrs. Richards who presented a “Spotlight on Deerfield”. She highlighted the academic achievements, instructional teams, and programs at Deerfield. The 8th grade Acapella group performed, and student artwork was displayed.

XI. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report - Mr. Gioia reported on the full day kindergarten program, referendum and development plans, as well as board elections. He also noted updates on the negotiations.

XII. Administration

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Administration #1-5**

Moved: Mr. Gioia Seconded: Mr. Hyman

RC:

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

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
November 19, 2019**

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the School Safety and Security Plan Annual Review Statement of Assurance (Attachment #2).
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2019-2020 Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklist for Beechwood and Deerfield Schools (Attachment #3).
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of Morris Psychological Group, 2019 testing fee schedule attached, as a resource for neuropsychological evaluations. (Attachment #4)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of the Child Development Center - St. Joseph's Hospital, Paterson. The cost for a neurodevelopmental evaluation is \$450.00, by Dr. Joseph Holahan, Dr. Nancy Holahan, or Dr. Aparna Mallik.
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools October 2019 safety and security drill reports (Attachment #5).

XIII. Budget and Finance

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-13**

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro Seconded: Mr. Gioia

RC:

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|------------|------------|
| Gioia -yes (abstained from #9) | Guidici Pietro -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 October 2019 (Attachment #6).
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated October 24 2019, through November 20, 2019 (Attachment #7).
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the preliminary Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of October 2019 and the preliminary Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of October 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary, Steve 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 October 2019:

RESOLVED THAT, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the month of October 2019 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for October 2019 as submitted and certified (Attachment #8).

4. Motion to approve the agreed upon stipend payment schedule between the Mountainside Board of Education and the Mountainside Education Association from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022, as identified V10.3.19. (Attachment #9)

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
November 19, 2019**

5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 3 year agreement between the Mountainside Board of Education and Waste Management of NJ, Inc., effective November 1, 2019 through October 31, 2022, in the amount of \$18,500.40 (Attachment #10).
6. **WHEREAS**, the Deerfield parking lot needed additional repair to improve drainage issues,

WHEREAS, D&L Paving has entered negotiations with Solutions Architecture and the Mountainside Board of Education to an agreed upon amount for these repairs,

WHEREAS, the total contract job cost will be \$33,000 for said repairs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountainside Board of Education approves a payment to D&L Paving of \$10,400.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these payments are reflective of good faith negotiations between the above mentioned parties, and is the total Board responsibility.
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept student accident insurance policies from Bollinger Specialty Group through Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, effective November 20, 2019 to November 20, 2020, with an annual premium of \$3,957. Policy is on file in the Board office.
8. **WHEREAS**, the Mountainside Board of Education approved Budget and Finance resolution #4 at the July 23, 2019 meeting authorizing the Business Administrator to proceed with all necessary adjustments and transfers to close the books for the 2018-2019 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the district was informed during the month of September 2019 by the New Jersey Department of Education of the award of Extraordinary Aid and Non-Public School Transportation Aid, for the 2018-2019 school year, in the amounts of \$112,843 and \$20,590 respectively;

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.3, the district may, by Board resolution, adjust these revenues from the year end excess surplus calculation, and appropriate said funds in the subsequent fiscal year without commissioner approval;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountainside Board of Education, accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator and approve the adjustment of excess Extraordinary Aid of -\$20,345 and Non-Public Transportation Aid of +\$20,590 for the 2018-2019 fiscal year excess surplus calculation.
9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the cooperative agreement between the Mountainside Board of Education and Berkeley Heights for a middle school wrestling program. (Attachment #11)
10. **WHEREAS** the Mountainside School District needs transportation for its athletic program,

WHEREAS multiple companies were contacted,

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
November 19, 2019**

RESOLVE to award a contract to Golden Arrow Transportation for use as transportation for all 19/20 basketball season sports trips at a rate of \$330 for the first 3 hours and \$120/hr. additional overtime.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this concludes the transportation needs for winter sports only (Attachment #12).

11. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, special education placements and services as per (Attachment #13).
12. Move to approve in accordance with MBOE policy 6471, School District Travel, and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the travel and related expenses itemized in (Attachment #14). 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.
13. Move to approve Dr. L. Hanes and Associates as a contracted service provider to provide supplemental home instruction services for Mountainside students on an as needed basis at a rate of \$60.00 per hour.

XIV. Personnel

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Personnel #1-8**

Moved: Mr. Minks Seconded: Dr. Guidici Pietro

RC:

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

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following updated stipend list for the 19-20 school year. (Attachment #15).
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to rescind personnel item #14 from October 22, 2019 Board of Education meeting, and reinstate Amy Piexoto's schedule of 4.25 hours per day as follows:
Mon/Thurs/Fri =10:00 - 2:15, Tues/Wed=10:45 - 3:00, effective November 11, 2019.
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the revised Maternity Disability Leave for Janelle Lauterbach, Grade 1 Teacher, to begin approximately November 21, 2019, through and including February 25, 2020. She will be permitted to utilize any accumulated sick days. It is also recommended that Ms. Lauterbach be granted an unpaid Family Leave from February 26, 2020, until April 10, 2020 in accordance with FMLA and NJFMLA. Ms. Lauterbach anticipates returning to work on April 13, 2020. (Attachment #16).
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the revised dates of Judith Wargaski, to the position of 1st Grade Teacher (Leave Replacement), at the rate of \$185 per diem, now effective from November 18, 2019 until approximately April 14, 2020.

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
November 19, 2019**

5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Ann Victor as a "student observer" under the supervision of Stacy Potkulski and Christopher Paserchia, contracted physical therapy services from Next Step Pediatric Therapy.
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Barbi Higinbotham for homebound instruction for student #5029655983, not to exceed 10 hours per week, at a rate of \$40.85/hour, from November 4, 2019.
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of Tara Rene to the 2019-2020 Substitute Teacher List, pending paperwork. (Attachment #17)
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of Avril Grant to the 2019-2020 Substitute Teacher List, pending paperwork. (Attachment #18)

XV. Curriculum

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

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro Seconded: Mr. Gioia

RC:

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

Move to approve upon the recommendation of Superintendent, the following field trips for the 2019-2020 school year:

| Date | Destination | Grade | Teacher in Charge | Estimated Cost |
|---------|--|-------|--------------------------|--|
| 1/2/20 | DF for Teddy Bear Making w/8 th gr. | K | Ms. Trentham Ms. Lima | Bus: \$325.00 - Paid by BOE |
| 3/13/20 | Union Cty. College Teen Arts Festival | 6-8 | Ms. Tiscia | \$300 registration fee \$850 bus – paid by BOE |
| 3/16/20 | DF for Teddy Bear Making w/8 th gr. | K | Ms. Ianniello | Buses: \$325.00 - Paid by BOE |
| 3/25/20 | Broadway Show & Olive Garden | 8 | Mr. Rosenblum | \$2,850 – paid by MEF \$13,479.45 paid by students \$2,300 – bus - paid by students |
| 4/20/20 | DF for Teddy Bear Making w/8 th gr. | K | Ms. Hunter | Buses: \$325.00 - Paid by BOE |
| 4/21/20 | Kidz Village | P | Ms. Primmer | Admission: \$349.72 - Paid by PTO Bus: \$425.00 - Paid by PTO |
| 4/30/20 | Jenkinson's Aquarium | K | Ms. Ianniello | Admission: \$570.00 - Paid by PTO Buses: \$1140.00 - Paid by PTO Chaperones pay at the door. |
| 4/22/20 | Liberty Science Center | 2 | Mrs. Bakker | IMAX Admission: \$373.00 - Paid by MEF Gen. Admission: \$1090.50 – Paid by PTO Buses: \$1020.00 - Paid by PTO Chaperones pay at the door. |

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
November 19, 2019**

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| 5/12/20 Rain date: 5/13/20 | Turtle Back Zoo | 1 | Ms. Groth | Admission: \$950.00 - Paid by PTO Buses: \$950.00 - Paid by PTO Chaperones pay at the door. |
| 5/13/20 | Trailside Nature & Science | 5 | Mrs. Kinney | Admission: \$420 – paid by PTO Buses: \$960 – paid by PTO |
| 6/5/20 | K Father’s Day Breakfast/Teddy Bear Day at DF | K | Ms. Lima | Buses: \$325.00 - Paid by BOE |

XVI. Policy

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

Moved: Mr. Minks Seconded: Mr. Gioia

RC:

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

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

| | | |
|------|----------------------|---------|
| 9210 | Parent Organizations | Revised |
| 9400 | Media Relations | Revised |

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

| | | |
|------|--|------------------|
| 8630 | Bus Driver/Bus Aide Responsibility | Revised/Mandated |
| 8670 | Transportation of Special Needs Students | Revised/Mandated |

XVII. Old Business - none

XVIII. New Business – Mr. Minks thanked the Board as he is stepping down, and congratulated newly elected board member, Mr. Bill Dillon and re-elected members Mr. Ruban and Mr. Venes. Mrs. Schiano mentioned the U12 and U14 soccer teams won championships. Mr. Venes attended the NJSBA convention last month, noting the Commissioner of Education’s speech, county meetings and testing changes to come.

XIX. Committee Reports – Mr. Gioia noted the Deerfield parking lot has been repaired. State medical benefits have changes, but no action will be taken at this time. MSBL had a meeting regarding a merge with Berkeley Heights. A board discussion about the 7510 policy came about from a correspondence from the MSBL. The Board recognized Eric Cantagallo, of the MSBL, who was in attendance. He spoke about the anticipated field projects they will be working on. Mr. Cantagallo requested to waive fees as a Tier 4 Group in policy 7510, to which the board discussed the financial impact on Mountainside. Mr. Jordan gave information on the library and their newsletter.

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
November 19, 2019**

XX. Correspondence –

The following motion was approved by roll call vote:

Moved: Mr. Minks Seconded: Mr. Gioia

RC:

Gioia -yes Guidici Pietro -abstained Hyman -yes Ruban -yes

Minks -yes Schiano -yes Venes -yes

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to waive fees for MSBL, per the 7510 policy, subject to the formalization of a field maintenance agreement between the Mountainside Board of Education and the Mountainside Softball and Baseball League.

XXI. Public Participation – The Mountainside Education Foundation is hosting a Talent Show on Friday, November 22nd at Deerfield School.

XXII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Minks at 9:35 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