

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
December 17, 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 7:02 p.m. in the Beechwood School Susan O. Collier Media Center, 1497 Woodacres Drive, Mountainside, New Jersey.

**II. Roll Call**

At roll call, the following members were present:

Mr. Dante Gioia  
Dr. Dana Guidici Pietro  
Mr. Jordan Hyman  
Mr. James Ruban, Jr.  
Mr. Carmine Venes

Also present were Janet Walling, Superintendent of Schools, Steve DiGeronimo, Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Bob Morrison, auditor from the firm Hodulik and Morrison, P.A., a division of PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP.

Mrs. Candice Schiano arrived at 7:05 and Mr. Christopher Minks arrived at 7:20, after roll call.

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

Moved: Mr. Gioia    Seconded: Dr. Guidici Pietro

RC:

Gioia -yes	Guidici Pietro -yes	Hyman -yes	Ruban -yes
Minks -absent	Schiano -absent	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 7:05 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: Mr. Gioia      Seconded: Dr. Guidicipietro

RC:

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

The public meeting reconvened at 8:05 p.m.

**V. Flag Salute**

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

Moved: Mr. Gioia      Seconded: Dr. Guidicipietro

RC:

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

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- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of November 19, 2019

**VII. Correspondence - none**

**VIII. Public Participation** – Dr. Lubarsky thanked Mr. Minks for his time on the Board of Education and for the years they worked together.

**IX. President’s Report** – Mr. Ruban on behalf of the Board expressed his sincere appreciation for Christopher Minks and his time and commitment to the Mountainside School District.

**X. Superintendent’s Report** – Mrs. Walling and other Board members thanked Mr. Minks for his dedication to the Board of Education and his participation in various committees over his 9 years of service. In addition, Mrs. Walling thanked Steve DiGeronimo for his guidance and expertise as the interim Business Administrator for nearly a year and a half, and wishes him well. Finally, Mrs. Walling introduced Bob Morrison, auditor from the firm Hodulik and Morrison, P.A., a division of PKF O’Connor Davies, LLP., to make the presentation of the 2018/19 audit report.

**XI. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report** – Mr. Gioia mentioned there were some changes to the Board of Education members at Berkeley Heights. He noted there was a teacher training cohort for leadership, and that the 2020-21 school calendar was approved.

**XII. Administration**

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

Moved: Mr. Gioia      Seconded: Mr. Hyman

RC:

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

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the Resolution honoring Mr. Christopher Minks, Mountainside Board of Education member. (Attachment #2)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Geneva Loconte, Fairleigh Dickinson student, to complete field experience hours as a requirement of her EDU 2403 course, Field Experience. (Attachment #3)
3. Move to accept the Superintendent's recommendations on HIB incident dated November 21, 2019.
4. Move to accept the Superintendent's recommendations on HIB incident dated November 26, 2019.
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools November 2019 safety and security drill reports (Attachment #4).

**XIII. Budget and Finance**

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

Moved: Mr. Minks    Seconded: Mr. Gioia

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 November 2019 (Attachment #5).
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated November 21, 2019, through December 18, 2019 (Attachment #6).
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the preliminary Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of November 2019 and the preliminary Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of November 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, the Interim 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 November 2019:

**RESOLVED THAT**, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the month of November 2019 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for November 2019 as submitted and certified (Attachment #7).

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4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to revise Budget and Finance resolution #8 from May 21, 2019, regarding the Student Transportation Contract Renewal with Durham School Service for the 2019-2020 school year, to reflect corrected figures. (Attachment #8).
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the contract with Stepping Forward Counseling Center, LLC, for home instruction and therapeutic services for student #5029655983. (Attachment #9)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, special education placements and services as per (Attachment #10) and the termination of the contract approved on August 27, 2019, for student #6489264549 at Academy 360, Lower School effective December 31, 2019.
7. 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 #11). 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 #1-3**

Moved: Mr. Gioia    Seconded: Dr. Guidiciopietro

RC:

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

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of Sophia Koutzoulis to the 2019-2020 Substitute Teacher List, pending paperwork. (Attachment #12)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Steven DiGeronimo, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary, to consult in the Business Office on an as needed basis, at an hourly rate of \$75, not to exceed 15 hours.
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of the following Stipend Positions for the 2019-2020 school year, and to rescind the appointment of Kristen Dal Cortivo as Video Editing Club Advisor from August 27, 2019, contingent upon student enrollment for those student activities subsidized in accordance with Board Policy 2436, Activity Participation Fee Program.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Salary</b>
Away Game Assistance	Deborah Posner	\$33.11/session (NTE 30 sessions)
Musical Play Choreographer		\$524.59
Set Design & Construction	Victoria Tiscia	\$2,331.26
Video Editing Club Advisor		\$33.11/session (NTE 50 sessions)
Coding Club Grades 6-8		\$32.19/session (NTE 30 sessions)

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**XV. Curriculum**

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

Moved: Mr. Gioia Seconded: Mr. Hyman

RC:

Gioia -yes    Guidicipietro -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	Estimated Cost
3/18/20 3/19 snow day	Livingston Middle School Jazz Festival	6-8 Jazz Band	Wise	\$150 - reg. paid by student activity/music sub acct. \$475 - bus paid by student activity/music sub acct.
3/31/20	LCJ Summit Middle School Adjudication Festival	6-8 Band	Wise	\$150 - reg. paid by student activity music sub acct. \$680 - bus paid by student activity/music sub acct.
4/2/20 (tentative)	Governor Livingston HS Orientation	8	Dal Cortivo	\$650 – bus paid by BOE
6/3/20	Somerset Patriot’s Stadium	5	Kinney	Funded by D.A.R.E. program

**XVI. Policy**

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

Moved: Mr. Gioia Seconded: Mr. Minks

RC:

Gioia -yes    Guidicipietro -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 second reading and adoption:

9210	Parent Organizations	Revised
9400	Media Relations	Revised

**XVII. Old Business - none**

**XVIII. New Business**

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Mrs. Walling stated that the Reorganization meeting will take place January 7, 2020 at Beechwood at 7:00 p.m., and the regular Board of Education meeting will be moved to January 21, 2020 and will be held at Deerfield.

**XIX. Committee Reports** - none

**XX. Public Participation** - none

**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