

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
January 21, 2020**

**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 7:04 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. Bill Dillon  
Mr. Dante Gioia  
Dr. Dana Guidici Pietro  
Mr. Jordan Hyman  
Mr. James Ruban, Jr.  
Mrs. Candice Schiano  
Mr. Carmine Venes

Also present were Janet Walling, Superintendent of Schools, and Raymond Slamb, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and Isabel Machado, Board Attorney.

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

Moved: Venes    Seconded: Gioia

RC:

Dillon -yes    Gioia -yes    Guidici Pietro -yes    Hyman -yes  
Ruban -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 7:06 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: Venes    Seconded: Guidici Pietro

RC:

Dillon -yes    Gioia -yes    Guidici Pietro -yes    Hyman -yes

Ruban -yes    Schiano -yes    Venes -yes

The public meeting reconvened at 7:57 p.m.

**V. Flag Salute**

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

Moved: Guidici Pietro    Seconded: Gioia

RC:

Dillon -yes    Gioia -yes    Guidici Pietro -yes    Hyman -yes

Ruban -yes    Schiano -yes    Venes -yes

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 17, 2019
- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of December 17, 2019
- ❖ Minutes of the Reorganization Meeting of January 7, 2020

**VII. Correspondence - none**

**VIII. Public Participation - none**

**IX. President's Report - none**

**X. Superintendent's Report**

Mrs. Walling honored Beechwood and Deerfield Teachers/Educational Service Professionals and Support Staff of the Year: Ms. Roy, Ms. Morrelli, Ms. Peixoto, Mrs. Kinney, Ms. Branco and Ms. Barone. Mrs. Isabel Machado made a presentation on Board Ethics. Mrs. Walling mentioned the Municipal Alliance sponsored Prevention Links Program for 4<sup>th</sup> Grade. She thanked the Watts Foundation for their generous \$4,000 donation for Beechwood Media Center books. She also mentioned we are looking to utilize School Messenger as a new communication system. Mr. Slamb and Mrs. Walling met with Maschio's to discuss the food service program, Chef Days, advisory committees and contract. The Union County Board of Elections met to explore the possibility of alternate polling locations. Mrs. Walling will be reaching out to the Board Committee chairs to meet soon.

**XI. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report - none**

**XII. Administration**

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

Moved: Hyman    Seconded: Gioia

RC:

Dillon -yes    Gioia -yes    Guidici Pietro -yes    Hyman -yes

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Ruban -yes Schiano -yes Venes -yes

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Statement of Assurance Regarding the Use of Paraprofessional Staff – 2019-2020 School Year (Attachment #2).
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools December 2019 safety and security drill reports (Attachment #3).

**XIII. Budget and Finance**

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-10**

Moved: Gioia Secoded: Guidicipietro

RC:

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

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the month of December 2019 (Attachment #4).
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated December 19, 2019, through January 22, 2020 (Attachment #5).
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the preliminary Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of December 2019 and the preliminary Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of December 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board Secretary, Raymond Slamb, 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 December 2019:

**RESOLVED THAT**, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the month of December 2019 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for December 2019 as submitted and certified (Attachment #6).

4. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Mountainside Board of Education, accepts the FY 2018-2019 audit, and approves the submission of the CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) as presented by the firm of Hodulik & Morrison, P.A., a division of PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP.
5. **RESOLVED THAT**, by the School Board of Mountainside School District, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that it hereby appoints Raymond Slamb as the School Alliance Insurance Fund Commissioner, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Fund Commissioner, Raymond Slamb, and the School Alliance Insurance Fund.

6. **RESOLVED THAT**, by the School Board of Mountainside School District approve the following banks to act as a depository for public funds, and that all checks, drafts or other orders for payment or

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withdrawal of money from said account be signed by the person holding the appropriate title as listed below:

<b>Account</b>	<b>Bank</b>	<b>Signatories</b>
Operating	Valley Bank	Superintendent/Board President
Payroll	Valley Bank	Superintendent/Board President
Food Service	Valley Bank	Superintendent/Business Administrator
Payroll Agency	Valley Bank	Superintendent/Business Administrator
SUI	Valley Bank	Superintendent/Business Administrator
BW School General Fund	Valley Bank	Beechwood Principal/ Business Administrator/Superintendent
DF School General Fund	Valley Bank	Deerfield Principal/Deerfield Secretary
DF Athletic Fund	Valley Bank	Deerfield Principal/Deerfield School Secretary
DF Student Council Fund	Valley Bank	Deerfield Principal/Student Council Advisor

7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the acceptance of a \$4,000 grant from the Watts Foundation to be used for the purchase of books for the Beechwood School Media Center (Attachment #7).
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the acceptance of a jukebox donation to Deerfield School, from Sally Moran, 8 Iroquois Trail, Harrison, NY 10528.
9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, special education placements and services (Attachment #8).
10. 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 #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 #1-5**

Moved: Guidici Pietro    Seconded: Gioia

RC:

Dillon -yes    Gioia -yes    Guidici Pietro -yes    Hyman -yes

Ruban -yes    Schiano -yes    Venes -yes

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to recognize the following staff members for their dedication to the students, families, and staff of the Mountainside School District. Their support, professionalism, and commitment is recognized and appreciated on a daily basis:

<b>Beechwood School:</b>	
Amanda Roy, 1 <sup>st</sup> grade teacher	Teacher of the Year
Leila Morrelli, speech	Educational Services Professional of the Year
Amy Peixoto, paraprofessional	Support Staff of the Year

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Deerfield School:	
Nancy Kinney, 5 <sup>th</sup> grade teacher	Teacher of the Year
Sonia Branco, nurse	Educational Services Professional of the Year
Denise Barone, secretary	Support Staff of the Year

2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of Bridget Lawrence, paraprofessional, effective January 23, 2020, and to thank her for her service to the Mountainside School District (Attachment #10).
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the notification to take classes from Adrienne Ridley, 6th Grade Language Arts Teacher, for class taken at Liberty University for the 2020 Winter Session for three (3) graduate credits in the amount of \$1,845.00 (Attachment #11)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the notification to take classes from Zachary Worswick, Physical Education Teacher, for class taken at University of Missouri – Columbia, for the 2020 Spring Session for three (3) graduate credits in the amount of \$453.03 (Attachment #12).
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of Susan Sylvestri to the 2019-2020 Substitute Teacher List, pending paperwork (Attachment #13).

**XV. Curriculum**

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

Moved: Hyman    Seconded: Gioia

RC:

Dillon -yes    Gioia -yes    Guidici Pietro -yes    Hyman -yes

Ruban -yes    Schiano -yes    Venes -yes

Move to approve upon the recommendation of Superintendent, the following field trips for the 2019-2020 school year: Mr. Gioia asked about rain dates. Mrs. Walling said she would look into it.

Date	Destination	Grade	Teacher in Charge	Estimated Cost
4/2/20	Franklin Institute	6	Ms. Haas	Trip: \$1,876 – pd. by MEF Bus: \$2,520 – pd. by PTO Other: \$250 – pd. by students Total: \$4,646
5/28/20 (tentative)	Ellis Island	4	Ms. Shimwell	Trip: \$764 - pd. by PTO Bus: \$1,140 - pd. by PTO Other: \$152 - pd. by students \$170 - pd. by chaperones Total: \$2,226
5/21/20	Camp	7	Ms. Chiappetta	Trip: \$1,998 – pd. by PTO

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	Bernie			Trip: \$1,047.05 – pd, by students (costs include busing) Total: \$3,035.05
6/10/20	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gr. DF Orientation	2	Mrs. Bakker	Buses: \$325 – pd. by BOE

**XVI. Policy**

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

Moved: Gioia    Seconded: Hyman

RC:

Dillon -yes    Gioia -yes    Guidici Pietro -yes    Hyman -yes

Ruban -yes    Schiano -yes    Venes -yes

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following policies for first reading: ***Policy 8600 was tabled.***

7440	School District Security	Revised/Mandated
8600	Student Transportation ( <i>tabled</i> )	Revised/Mandated

**XVII. Old Business - none**

**XVIII. New Business**

Mr. Hyman will be attending an upcoming library meeting next Monday. Mrs. Walling noted the library is collecting plastic bags for recycling to purchase a Trex bench, and there is a pet supply drive in honor of Ms. Crilly, with donations accepted at both schools. She also reminded everyone of the upcoming Spirit Night on January 31<sup>st</sup> at Deerfield.

**XIX. Committee Reports**

Buildings & Grounds Committee chair, Mr. Gioia reported on discussions regarding election use and alternate polling places. The committee wants to explore potential uses for an old media room in Deerfield. They are investigating an issue with a pipe in the girls' locker room and discussing a request from MSBL regarding batting cages.

**XX. Public Participation - none**

**XXI. Executive Session**

Moved: Guidici Pietro    Seconded: Venes

RC:

Dillon -yes    Gioia -yes    Guidici Pietro -yes    Hyman -yes

Ruban -yes    Schiano -yes    Venes -yes

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

1. Legal/Personnel

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**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 9:11 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.

No action was taken.

**XXII. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Dillon at 9:35p.m., seconded by Mr. Hyman to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 7 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Raymond Slamb  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary