

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

February 25, 2020

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 7:05 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. Bill Dillon
Mr. Dante Gioia
Dr. Dana Guidicipietro
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.

III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

Moved: Venes Seconded: Gioia

RC: Dillon -yes Gioia -yes Guidicipietro -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.

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

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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: Ruban Seconded: Guidicipietro

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

The public meeting reconvened at 8:06 p.m.

V. Flag Salute

VI. Approval of Minutes

Moved: Hyman Seconded: Guidicipietro

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

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 21, 2020
- ❖ Minutes of the 1st Executive Session of January 21, 2020
- ❖ Minutes of the 2nd Executive Session of January 21, 2020

VII. Correspondence - none

VIII. Public Participation - none

IX. President's Report - none

X. Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Walling introduced Mrs. Jenks who presented a "Spotlight on Beechwood", highlighting this year's initiatives on communication, SEL, phonics program, technology and math workshops. The board commented on principal weekly updates, the benefits of increased communication and the great job Mrs. Jenks has done at Beechwood. Mrs. Walling mentioned the district's Sustainable Jersey for Schools recertification initiative and receipt of a \$2000 grant for refillable water bottle stations in Beechwood. She thanked ExxonMobil for a \$500 grant for Deerfield robotics. She shared grant ideas with the Watts Foundation and is awaiting feedback. Mrs. Walling noted the 2020-2021 school calendar was being presented for approval at tonight's meeting, and pointed out some highlights. Mrs. Walling met with a Special Ed. Parent Advisory Group regarding input & collaboration with local schools.

XI. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report

Mr. Gioia reported that Berkeley Heights started live streaming BOE meetings. He mentioned their Strategic Plan for the next 5 years, including full day kindergarten. Governor Livingston High School wants to increase AP course engagement and Berkeley Heights wants to incorporate SEL

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lessons from guidance counselors. Berkeley Heights is moving to paperless BOE meetings and board office, and a September referendum will be voted on to update the media center and other projects.

XII. Administration

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Administration #1-9**

Moved: Dr. Guidiciopietro Seconded: Mr. Hyman

RC: Dillon -yes Gioia -yes Guidiciopietro -yes Hyman -yes
Ruban -yes Schiano -yes Venes -yes

1. Move to accept the Superintendent's recommendations on HIB incident dated December 20, 2019.
2. Move to accept the Superintendent's recommendations on HIB incident dated February 7, 2020.
3. **WHEREAS**, the Mountainside Board of Education seeks to participate in Sustainable Jersey for Schools to focus attention and efforts on matters of sustainability and pursue initiatives that will lead to Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certification.

WHEREAS, The Mountainside Board of Education and District Superintendent seek to support and work with school staff and administrators, students, and parents to ensure a safe and healthy environment for students by encouraging our school community to implement sustainable, energy-smart, eco-friendly, and cost-effective solutions.

WHEREAS, Extensive opportunities exist to teach students about ecological, economic and social sustainability, environmental health, and nutrition; to integrate sustainability education into classroom learning; and to support students in becoming leaders in making their schools healthier and more sustainable places.

WHEREAS, Many options and choices exist for schools to use resources more efficiently; to reduce, reuse, and recycle; to follow Green Building Standards for construction and major renovations; to form school partnerships; to eliminate toxic chemicals; to purchase (or produce) clean energy; and to purchase recycled paper, energy-efficient equipment and other green products to protect our global environment.

WHEREAS, Sustainability means using resources wisely, saving money, and reducing our impact on the environment, all of which will ensure the future health, safety, and prosperity of our children.

WHEREAS, The Mountainside Board of Education commits to the formation of at least one Sustainability Leadership Team (also referred to as "Green Team"), based on the guidance of Sustainable Jersey for Schools.

WHEREAS, Green Team members help schools adopt policies and practices addressing areas such as sustainability education and professional training, green purchasing, waste reduction, indoor air quality, energy-saving initiatives, and community partnerships.

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WHEREAS, The Mountainside Board of Education will encourage Green Teams at both district schools by providing networking and educational opportunities.

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the Mountainside Board of Education agrees to participate in Sustainable Jersey for Schools, and it is the board's intention to pursue certification for schools in the district.

WE HEREBY APPOINT Janet Walling, Superintendent to be the district's liaison to Sustainable Jersey for Schools.

WE DO HEREBY RECOGNIZE our Schools as the agents to carry out our commitment to building a sustainable school district through the implementation of Sustainable Jersey for Schools actions.

WE AGREE TO complete district actions and to support the district's schools in completing their actions. (Attachment #2)

4. **WHEREAS**, N.J.A.C. 6A: 23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicare Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2020-2021 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Mountainside Board of Education, desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having one Medicaid eligible classified students and is therefore not required to participate in SEMI.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountainside Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent to accept the waiver approval issued by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Union following submission of an appropriate waiver of the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A: 23A-5.3 for the 2020-2021 school year.

5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Student Safety Data System (SSDS) Report, from September 1, 2019-December 31, 2019, as reported to the NJ Department of Education. (Attachment #3)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Memorandum Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials.
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklist Statement of Assurance – 2019-2020 School Year (Attachment #4).
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2020-2021 School Year Calendar (Attachment #5).
9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools January 2020 safety and security drill reports (Attachment #6).

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XIII. Budget and Finance

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-15**

Moved: Mr. Gioia Seconded: Mr. Hyman

RC: Dillon -yes Gioia -yes Guidici Pietro -yes Hyman -yes
Ruban -yes Schiano -yes Venes -yes

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the month of January 2020 (Attachment #7).
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated January 23, 2020, through February 26, 2020 (Attachment #8).
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the preliminary Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of January 2020 and the preliminary Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of January 2020; 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 January 2020:

RESOLVED THAT, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the month of January 2020 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for January 2020 as submitted and certified (Attachment #9).

4. **WHEREAS**, the Mountainside School District desires to participate in the purchasing program known as The National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance, and in the opinion that participation in this program will be highly beneficial to the taxpayers through the anticipated savings to be realized.

WHEREAS, after a competitive solicitation and selection process by Region 14 ESC, NCPA has set up a number of Master Agreements to provide goods, products and services based upon national volumes

WHEREAS, the competitive solicitation and selection process required that suppliers allow Participating Public Agencies to purchase goods, products and services on the same terms, conditions and pricing as Region 14 ESC; subject to the applicable local purchasing ordinances and laws of the state of purchase;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the Mountainside Board of Education that the Mountainside School District is authorized to enroll and participate in the purchasing program known as The National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance (NCPA) and purchases thru such program shall be deemed to meet the agencies competitive purchasing requirements;

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

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5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the agreement between the Union County Educational Services Commission and the Mountainside Board of Education for Special Education and Vocational Technical Schools Coordinated Transportation Services for the 2020-2021 school year (Attachment #10).
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Mountainside Board of Education approve the stipulation of settlement agreement with respect to student #8791241015, as discussed in executive session.
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the agreement between the Berkeley Heights Board of Education and the Mountainside Board of Education for a tuition credit adjustment. (Attachment #11)
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the annual contract with SchoolMessenger, effective July 1, 2020, in the amount of \$2,650.00. (Attachment#12)
9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept \$2,000 from Sustainable Jersey for Schools grant from the 2019 NJEA-funded cycle, to be used to update two Beechwood water fountains to refillable water stations. (Attachment #13)
10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept \$500 from ExxonMobil Educational Alliance grant, to be used for technology/robotics. (Attachment #14)
11. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the building use request with the Actor's Camp for building use during the summer of 2020 based on Policy 7510, priority 5, and a payment schedule totaling \$8,655.68.
12. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and pursuant to the authority granted by N.J.S.A. 18A: 44-4(B), the Mountainside Board of Education hereby establishes the following per pupil yearly tuition rate for non-disabled pupils enrolled in its preschool program for the 2020-2021 school year: \$7,500 for 5 full day sessions.
13. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to increase the professional services agreement between the Mountainside Board of Education and Progressive Therapy of NJ for behavioral (BCBA) services for 2 additional hours per week for the remainder of the 19-20 school year.
14. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, special education placements and services (Attachment #15).
15. 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 #16). This travel is deemed educationally necessary and fiscally prudent, and all travel

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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 #1-10**

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro Seconded: Mr. 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 accept the resignation of Rachel Kirson, part-time Speech-Language Pathologist at Deerfield, effective March 15, 2020, and to thank her for her service to the Mountainside School District (Attachment #17)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve Antonio Cordero, to the position of night custodian, at an annual salary of \$35,048, prorated, effective March 2, 2020, pending paperwork. (Attachment #18)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to increase the hours of Elizabeth Carpenter, paraprofessional, as follows: Monday – Wednesday 2 hours per day, effective March 2, 2020 through June 18, 2020.
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Dana Peterson, as an Orton Gillingham Reading Instructor, for student #2730742209, for up to 2 hours per week, at the rate of \$100/hour, from February 24, 2020 to June 18, 2020.
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to appoint Jared Rosenblum to the stipend position of Musical Play Choreographer, for the stipend amount of \$524.59.
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of Jamie Pereira to the 2019-2020 Substitute Nurse List, pending paperwork. (Attachment #19)
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of Rosemary DeSimone to the 2019-2020 Substitute Teacher List, pending paperwork. (Attachment #20)
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following Union County Community College students to complete 50 observation hours as a requirement of EDU 215, Fieldwork in Education coursework. (Attachment #21)

Union County Students	Class Observing
Stefanny Gamonal	Ms. VanVliet - Grade 2
Jessica Negron	Ms. Trentham and Ms. Lima – Grade K
Marsha St. Val	Ms. Higinbotham & Ms. Blass – Grade 3

9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff members to write curriculum, at a rate of \$40.85 per hour session for the remainder of the 19-20 school year.

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Jeanne Albanese	Kathy Goldbeck	Deborah Posner
Ellie Barkin	Kristen Haas	Adrienne Ridley
Dawn Bladzinski	Jayne Hartnett	Elizabeth Shimwell
Jessica Botkin	Barbi Higinbotham	Nara Sterba
Sharon Bradley	Axl Hirsch	Tori Tiscia
Susan Burke	Suzanne Jenks	Lori Topel
Gary Chan	Dan Kessler	Kristin Trentham
Laura Chiapetta	Corrin Lavery	Jean Van Vliet
Natalie Crisafulli	Nicole Mansfield	Tom Wise
Nicole Cruts	Caitlin Murphy	Nina Woo
Michelle Cruz	Paige Primmer	Bryan Young

10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of Christina Borris, to the part-time position of Speech-Language Therapist, at a salary of \$22,512 (40% of \$56,280), Step 1 MA, effective March 16, 2020 through June 30, 2020, pending paperwork. (Attachment #21A)

XV. Curriculum

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

Moved: Mr. Gioia Seconded: Dr. Guidici Pietro

RC: Dillon -yes Gioia -yes Guidici Pietro -yes Hyman -yes
Ruban -yes Schiano -yes Venes -yes

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

Date	Destination	Grade	Teacher	Estimated Cost
3/20/20	Hillside Community Food Bank	6-8 Student Council	Chan & McGarrity	\$360.00 - bus pd. by Student Council
5/7-5/8 2020	Washington, DC	8	Young	\$9,000 – pd. by BOE \$3,576 – pd. by PTO \$439/per student \$489/per chaperone \$2,000 – school photos \$5,500 – yearbook Total: \$53,574

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XVI. Policy

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

Moved: Mr. Hyman Seconded: Mr. 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, the following policies for first reading:

8600	Student Transportation	Revised/Mandated
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2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following policies for second reading and adoption:

7440	School District Security	Revised/Mandated
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XVII. Old Business - none

XVIII. New Business - County School Boards Association delegate, Mr. Venes, attended a county meeting which discussed a policy limiting Facebook posting after hours, and Donaldson hearings and the right to a public meeting. Also there is a May 15th contract renewal deadline and discussion about consolidation of K-8 districts.

XIX. Committee Reports

- **PTO liaison**, Dr. Guidici Pietro reported that 100% of proceeds from events go back to our schools, noting last year PTO funded new lighting in DF and a Chromebook cart for Beechwood. Spring Fling on March 20th, basket donations due by March 1st.
- **Health & Wellness Chair**, Dr. Guidici Pietro, noted our Green initiative, and commented on nutrition, the lunch menu and student feedback. She noted the SEL program is doing well.
- **Borough Council/Legislative liaison**, Dr. Guidici Pietro spoke about Mountainside's 125th anniversary and student involvement, with more information to come.
- **Budget and Finance chair**, Mr. Gioia, mentioned there are typical challenges, including healthcare costs. The preliminary budget presentation will be at the next BOE meeting.
- **Personnel/Negotiation chair**, Mr. Gioia, reported on the process to review for tenure.
- **Grants/Alternate Funding chair**, Mr. Gioia, talked about looking for additional local grants and the importance of grants to our district, pointing to the school gardens and other projects supported this way.

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- **Library Liaison**, Mr. Hyman, reported the book sale is March 12th, volunteers needed, donations accepted starting March 7th. Boutique Jewelry sale is May 1st. Library offers Guggenheim and Stickley Museum passes, and there are 20 new computers.
- **Curriculum** chair, Mrs. Schiano, reported there are many revisions needed, that will take many hours, but we have plenty of teachers willing to be involved in the process, as approved tonight.
- **Strategic Planning** chair, Mrs. Schiano, reported the district continues to implement goals and report on progress. Mrs. Walling discussed the progress of the SEL program.
- **Community Outreach** chair, Mr. Hyman, mentioned there is positive momentum with newsletters, social media and weekly updates. There is close collaboration with Mountainside and BH. There may be a communication survey sent out to families to gather information to improve our communication further.

XX. Public Participation - none

XXI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Dr. Guidici Pietro at 9:12 p.m., seconded by Mr. Gioia to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 7 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Raymond Slamb
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary