

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

April 28, 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 7:00 p.m. virtually via Zoom meeting application.

II. Roll Call

At roll call, the following members were present:

Mr. Bill Dillon - via Zoom
Mr. Dante Gioia - via Zoom
Dr. Dana Guidici Pietro - via Zoom
Mr. Jordan Hyman - via Zoom
Mr. James Ruban, Jr. - via Zoom
Mrs. Candice Schiano - via Zoom
Mr. Carmine Venes - via Zoom

Also present were Janet Walling, Superintendent of Schools, Raymond Slamb, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary (via Zoom).

III. Executive Session - none

IV. Close Executive Session - none

V. Flag Salute

VI. Approval of Minutes

Moved: Guidici Pietro Seconded: Venes

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

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VII. Correspondence - none

VIII. Public Participation - none

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IX. President's Report - Mr. Ruban thanked students and parents for working hard, adapting, and supporting each other during challenging times. He commended teachers, staff, administrators, and our superintendent for engaging students, and keeping everyone informed.

X. Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Walling recognized students for their posters entered in a Somerset-Union County Soil Conservation contest, asking "Where Would We *Bee* Without Pollinators?" She congratulated Sadie Ward, Alexa Torres and Amelia Zmuda on their artwork, some of which will be entered in a state level competition. Mrs. Walling thanked everyone for making the transition from physical to virtual a success in an unprecedented time and wished everyone to remain in good health and safe. She is monitoring guidance from the state and county to be prepared to welcome everyone back whenever that might be and will keep everyone updated. The administration is exploring creative ways to celebrate 8th-grade graduation and are meeting later this week to gather input from the PTO and other important stakeholders to determine how to make events meaningful and memorable while working within guidance to keep everyone safe. Mrs. Walling presented an update on distance learning with videos from Beechwood and Deerfield, featuring a virtual Acapella Choir performance. She also presented NJSLA-S Spring 2019 Science test results and Mr. Gioia commented on science scores and the importance of analyzing test data once available. Mrs. Walling and Mr. Slamb presented the final Budget for the 20/21 school year - afterwards the board discussed elements of budget presentation. A member of the community asked a question on the sustainability of using reserves and state aid, to which the board and administration responded.

XI. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report - Mr. Gioia reported that Berkeley Heights is adjusting the budget based on expense savings as a result of the closure and cancellation of some capital expenditures. They are delaying the referendum until 201 due to the current COVID crisis environment, which means the full-day kindergarten program will be delayed. The board provided an update on distance learning.

XII. Administration

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

Moved: Mr. Venes 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, a change to the 2019-2020 school district calendar, due to unused snow days, establishing Thursday May 21, and Friday May 22, as days on which schools will be closed, pending any emergency closings. (Attachment #2)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Emergency Preparedness Plan. (Attachment #3)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools March 2020 safety and security drill reports (Attachment #4).

XIII. Budget and Finance

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The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-8**

Moved: Mr. Gioia Seconded: Mr. Venes

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 March 2020 (Attachment #5).
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated March 19, 2020, through April 29, 2020 (Attachment #6).
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of March 2020 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of March 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 March 2020:

RESOLVED THAT, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the month of March 2020 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for March 2020 as submitted and certified (Attachment #7).

4. **WHEREAS**, the Mountainside Board of Education adopted a tentative budget on March 17, 2020 to be submitted to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval, and

WHEREAS, the tentative budget was approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools on March 25, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the tentative budget was advertised in the legal section of the Westfield Leader on April 23, 2020; and

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUES	DEBT SERVICE	TOTAL
2020-21 Total Expenditures	\$18,742,885	\$213,836	\$1,667,728	\$20,624,449
Less: Anticipated Revenues	\$1,963,986	\$213,836	\$451,812	\$2,629,634
Taxes to Be Raised	\$16,778,899	\$0	\$1,215,916	\$17,994,815

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the use of \$98,412.00 of Banked Cap, to be included in the base budget; and that this amount of unused spending authority must be completed by the end of the budget year and cannot be deferred or incrementally completed over a longer period of time; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mountainside Board of Education authorize the

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approval of withdrawal from capital reserve in the amount \$50,000 for the Deerfield Girl's Locker Room Pipe Repair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mountainside Board of Education authorize the approval of withdrawal from tuition reserve in the amount of \$105,000 for the purpose of 2020-2021 tuition expenditures.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mountainside Board of Education hereby adopts the 2020-2021 School Year budget and,

BE IT RESOLVED that there should be raised for the General Funds tax levy \$16,778,899 for the ensuing School Year 2020-2021 and,

BE IT RESOLVED that there should be raised for Debt Service tax levy, \$1,215,916, for the ensuing School Year 2020-2021.

WHEREAS, the Mountainside Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$500 per authorized staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1st through June 30th); and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq., but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education out of district travel and reimbursement forms; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education out of district travel and reimbursement forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b), to a maximum expenditure of \$16,500 for all staff and Board members.

5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the agreement between Durham Transportation Services LP and the Mountainside School District dated April 6, 2020, relating to the COVID-19 crisis and adjusted payments. (Attachment #8)

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6. **RESOLVED**, that the Mountainside Board of Education set the annual fee for Subscription Busing for SY 2020-2021 at \$475.
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, renewal of the FSMC base year contract with Maschio's Food Services, Inc. for the 2020-2021 school year. The service management fee is \$9,020 with a guaranteed return of \$1,000 (Attachment #9).
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the annual renewal of Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, as the health benefits provider for the Mountainside School District, effective 7/1/2020 through 6/30/2021.

XIV. Personnel

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

Moved: Mr. Gioia Seconded: Mr. Venes

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 certificated tenured personnel list for the 2020-2021 school year (Attachment #10).
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the certificated non-tenured personnel list for the 2020-2021 school year (Attachment #11).
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the secretaries and custodians list for the 2020-2021 school year (Attachment #12).

XV. Policy

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

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro Seconded: Mr. 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 second reading and adoption:

8210	School Year	Revised/Mandated
8220	School Day	Revised/Mandated
8462	Reporting Potentially Missing or Abused Children	Revised/Mandated
5330	Administration of Medication	Revised/Mandated

- XVI. Old Business** - Dr. Guidici Pietro commented on the outstanding performance of students in the school year, and thanked students and staff for all their hard work.

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XVII. New Business - Dr. Guidici Pietro, PTO Liaison, thanked teachers and staff in making the transition to distance learning so smooth. The PTO meeting will be rescheduled depending on the Governor's guidelines, but the Crilly Scholarship will still be awarded.

XVIII. Committee Reports - none

XIX. Public Participation - A member of the community asked about the district curriculum during distance learning, to which Mrs. Walling responded. Another community member thanked every teacher, administrator and board member for supporting the students during these uncertain times.

XX. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Venes at 8:43 p.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