

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

July 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 7:02 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 at 7:05

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

III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro Seconded: Mr. Gioia

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

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.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

July 28, 2020

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board adjourn to executive session at 7:03 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. Dillon Seconded: Mr. Hyman

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

The public meeting reconvened at 8:00 p.m

V. Flag Salute

VI. Approval of Minutes

Moved: Mr. Gioia Seconded: Dr. Guidicipietro

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

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 23, 2020
- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of June 23, 2020

VII. Correspondence - none

VIII. Public Participation - none

IX. President's Report - none

- X. Superintendent's Report - Mrs. Walling recognized Mrs. Richards and staff for their amazing work to put together the successful in-person 8th Grade Graduation. Mrs. Walling reviewed the annual HIB Grades Report. She presented the detailed reopening plan for September along with Mr. Slamb, thanked administration and committee members for their hard work, and thanked parents for their feedback and helpful insights. She also thanked the Board for their support and work on these committees and structuring of the plan. Some board members asked questions about the plan. Topics discussed were bus drivers and sub drivers, addressing COVID-like symptoms like allergies, and 1:1 technology. Mrs. Walling and Mr. Slamb responded.

- XI. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report - Mr. Gioia reported that Berkeley Heights will hold a board meeting Thursday night to go over their reopening plan.

XII. Budget and Finance

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-16**

Moved: Mr. Gioia Seconded: Dr. Guidicipietro

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

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

July 28, 2020

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the month of June 2020 (Attachment #2).
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated July 1, 2020, through July 29, 2020 (Attachment #3).
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of June 2020 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of June 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 June 2020:

RESOLVED THAT, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the month of June 2020 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for June 2020 as submitted and certified (Attachment #4).

4. **WHEREAS**, this resolution was inadvertently omitted from the agenda of the June 23, 2020 meeting; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:21-2, N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-31 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-41 permit a Board of Education to establish and/or deposit into certain reserve accounts at year-end; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned statutes authorize procedures, under the authority of the Commissioner of Education, which permits a board of education to transfer unanticipated excess current revenue or unexpended appropriations into reserve accounts during the month of June by board resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Mountainside Board of Education wishes to transfer unanticipated excess current year revenue or unexpended appropriations from the general fund into its Capital, Maintenance and Tuition Reserve accounts at year-end; and

WHEREAS, the Mountainside Board of Education has determined that any excess surplus above the combination of the allowable 2% of adjusted expenditures at the conclusion of the 2019-20 fiscal year and all funds awarded by the New Jersey Department of Education for the 2019-20 Extraordinary Aid and/or Non-Public Transportation Aid is available for such transfer;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board authorize the Business Administrator to make this transfer of all funds in excess of the allowable 2% of adjusted expenditures at the conclusion of the 2019-20 fiscal year and any and all funds awarded by the New Jersey Department of Education for 2019-20 Extraordinary Aid and/or Non-Public Transportation Aid consistent with all applicable laws and regulations in the amount not to exceed \$1,150,000 as follows; Tuition Reserve not to exceed \$500,000, Capital Reserve not to exceed \$350,000, Maintenance Reserve not to exceed \$150,000, and Emergency Reserve not to exceed \$150,000 be made as of June 30, 2019, nunc pro tunc.

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
July 28, 2020**

5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the revised tax payment schedule for the 2020-2021 school year from the Borough of Mountainside to the Mountainside Board of Education as follows and to authorize the School Business Administrator to submit said schedule to the Borough of Mountainside:

2020-2021	General Fund	Debt Service	Total
July	\$1,398,241.70	\$237,358.00	\$1,635,599.70
August	\$1,398,241.66	\$747,950.00	\$2,146,191.66
September	\$1,398,241.66	\$	\$1,398,241.66
October	\$1,398,241.66	\$	\$1,398,241.66
November	\$1,398,241.66	\$	\$1,398,241.66
December	\$1,398,241.66	\$	\$1,398,241.66
January	\$1,398,241.50	\$53,291.00	\$1,451,532.50
February	\$1,398,241.50	\$177,317.00	\$1,575,558.50
March	\$1,398,241.50	\$	\$1,398,241.50
April	\$1,398,241.50	\$	\$1,398,241.50
May	\$1,398,241.50	\$	\$1,398,241.50
June	\$1,398,241.50	\$	\$1,398,241.50
Total:	\$16,778,899.00	\$1,215,916.00	\$17,994,815.00

Note: Payments will be approved by Council on the third Tuesday of the month payable on or about the 20th of each month.

6. **WHEREAS**, the State Treasurer, in consultation with the Governor and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:34-7 and N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 (b) has increased the bid threshold amount for school districts which do not have a Qualified Purchasing Agent , from \$29,000 to \$32,000, effective July 1, 2020;

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

July 28, 2020

WHEREAS, the Mountainside Board of Education would like to take advantage of the maximum statutory bid threshold amount of \$32,000 for school districts who do not have a qualified purchasing agent;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mountainside Board of Education, establishes and sets the bid threshold amount of \$32,000 for the Board of Education, and further authorizes Raymond Slamb to award contracts, in full accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 (a), for those purchases that do not exceed in the aggregate the newly established bid threshold amount.

7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the proposal submitted by Solutions Architecture to update the district long-range facilities plan in the amount of \$5,000. (Attachment #5)
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the **revised** Agreement for Participation in Coordinated Transportation Services between Union Educational Services Commission (UCESC) and the Mountainside School District from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. (Attachment #6)
9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a parent transportation contract, in the amount of \$5,128.42, pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A: 39.1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A: 27-9.9, between the Mountainside Board of Education and the parent/legal guardians of student I.D. #9155768730 for 2020-2021 Regular School Year.
10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the hiring of JAG Consulting, LLC for technology services effective July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 at a rate of \$32.00 per hour, not to exceed \$15,000 (Attachment #7).
11. **BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Mountainside Board of Education adopts the revised 403(b) Plan Document effective July 28, 2020. (Attachment #8)
12. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the list of Independent Contractors/Physicians/Agencies for the 20-21 school year, if needed. (Attachment #9)
13. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the PTO donation in the amount of \$13,500 to be used as follows: \$11,000 for Long Range Technology and \$2,500 for Capital Improvement projects. (Attachment #10)
14. 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 revised per pupil yearly tuition rate of \$3,750, for non-disabled pupils enrolled in its preschool program for the 2020-2021 school year as a result of reduced program hours.
15. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, special education placements and services as per (Attachment #11).
16. **Approval of Plan to Address Reduction in State Aid for 2020-2021 School Year**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

July 28, 2020

Whereas N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.3(b) and (c) authorize district boards of education to transfer/increase the amount of unassigned general fund surplus budgeted in the original budget certified for taxes at any time during the budget year; and,

Whereas the appropriation of resources necessary to offset the reduction to 2020-21 state aid has been granted by the Interim Commissioner of Education; and,

Whereas districts may designate any portion of unassigned general fund surplus for this purpose,

Be it resolved that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the allocation of \$85,535 of general fund surplus to offset the reduction in State Aid for 2020-21 in its entirety.

XIII. Personnel

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

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 request for tuition reimbursement from Suzanne Jenks, taken at College of Saint Elizabeth for Spring 2019 sessions for six (6) graduate credits in the amount of \$3,900.00, as per tuition reimbursement allowed under Professional Growth, section D of her administrative contract. (Attachment #12).
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of Amy Peixoto, paraprofessional, effective June 17, 2020, and to thank her for her service to the Mountainside School District. (Attachment #13)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of Judy Wargaski, to the position of 1st Grade Teacher, at a salary of \$53,218, Step 1 BA, effective September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. (Attachment #14)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of Gabrielle Sabony, to the position of 4th Grade (Leave Replacement), at the per diem rate of \$150 for the first 20 days of the assignment, and \$185 per diem for the balance of the assignment, effective approximately September 16, 2020, until February 16, 2021, upon successful criminal background check (Attachment #15).
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of Miriam Grubin-Cappel, to the position of School Social Worker (Leave Replacement), at the per diem rate of \$150 for the first 20 days of the assignment, and \$190 per diem for the balance of the assignment, effective approximately September 1, 2020, until January 12, 2021, upon successful criminal background check (Attachment #16).

XIV. Policy

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

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

July 28, 2020

Moved: Dr. Guidicipietro Seconded: Mr. Hyman

RC: Dillon -yes Gioia -yes Guidicipietro -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:

1642	Earned Sick Leave Law	New/Mandated
1648	Restart and Recovery Plan	New/Mandated
1649	Federal Families First Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Act	New/Mandated

- XV. Old Business** - Mr. Slamb provided an update on the AC repairs in the cafeteria in Beechwood.
- XVI. New Business** - Mr. Gioia congratulated the 10U baseball team, and noted the 8U teams did a great job. He wished the 12U and 9U teams good luck going forward. Mr. Hyman thanked Mrs. Walling, staff and volunteers for both the virtual and live graduation ceremonies and commented that the kids really enjoyed it. Mr. Dillon noted he was thankful for the opportunity to participate in the Road Back Committees and was inspired by the contributions from teachers and staff .
- XVII. Committee Reports** - Budget & Finance Committee: Mr. Gioia mentioned the plan to address reduction in state aid, touchless bathroom upgrades, PEAK tuition change, and the AC for Beechwood's cafeteria. Mr. Slamb provided an explanation of options to address the reduction of state aid.
- XVIII. Public Participation** - Several community members asked questions about the reopening plans to which Mrs. Walling responded. Topics discussed were: needs of students' with IEP's, maintaining cohorts, PPE needs for different students, 6-8th graders schedule/classes, transportation routes, times and procedures, small group instruction solutions, the supply and training of substitutes, the arts, middle school sports, before/aftercare options and procedures, and equity and schedule questions regarding remote learning.
- XIX. Adjournment**
A motion was made by Mr. Gioia at 10:11 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Schiano to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 7 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Raymond Slamb
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary