

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

October 20 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 7:03 p.m.

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 - joined via Zoom at 7:11 p.m.

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

III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

Moved: Mr. Gioia Seconded: Dr. Guidici Pietro

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.

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

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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: Mr. Hyman Seconded: Mr. Gioia

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

The public meeting reconvened at 8:11 p.m. Mr. Venes returned to the public meeting at 8:20.

V. Flag Salute

VI. Approval of Minutes

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro Seconded: Mr. Gioia

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

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 22, 2020
- ❖ Minutes of the 1st Executive Session of September 22, 2020
- ❖ Minutes of the 2nd Executive Session of September 22, 2020

VII. Correspondence - none

VIII. Public Participation - none

IX. President's Report - none

X. Superintendent's Report - Mrs. Walling provided an update on Week of Respect activities led by our school counselors and teachers. Detective Bendik visited classrooms for Violence and Vandalism Awareness week as well. Red Ribbon Week information with PTO sponsored activities will be in weekly S'mores and ELFF. The PTO will also support upcoming Halloween activities. The first transition for remote students returning to in-person instruction will be on November 2nd, with about 30 students opting to return so far. Parents can opt anytime for remote instruction. Mrs. Walling addressed holiday travel and the need to quarantine if visiting states on NJ's advisory list. Parents should contact building principals to have quarantined students added to temporary remote learning schedules. Mrs. Walling stated that information on beginning of the year student benchmarks (LinkIt For middle school and iReady grades 1-5) will be shared with parents within the next week or so. She thanked everyone for their continued hard work.

XI. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report - Mr. Gioia reported that GL is expanding instructional time to 12:30 in November. He reported that fall sports have been in full swing, with a number of articles highlighting the soccer and football teams. They have used wristbands to control the number of attendees at games. He wished good luck to seniors during the college selection process.

XII. Administration

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Administration #1-4**

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Moved: Mr. Hyman

Seconded: Mr. Gioia

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 2020-2021 Nursing Services Plan. (Attachment #2).
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Comprehensive Equity Plan Statement of Assurance for 2020-2021. (Attachment #3)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools September 2020 safety and security drill reports. (Attachment #4)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the revised district calendar for 2020-2021 school year. (Attachment #4A)

XIII. Budget and Finance

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-9**

Moved: Mr. Gioia Seconded: Dr. 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 September 2020 (Attachment #5).
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated September 25, 2020, through October 21, 2020 (Attachment #6).
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of September 2020 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of September 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 September 2020:

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

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the annual Comprehensive Maintenance Plan (Attachment #8).
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept a \$5,991 grant donation from the Watts Foundation, to be used to purchase STEM equipment and a \$16,000 grant

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donation, to be used to purchase various equipment and services in response to the challenges of the coronavirus. (Attachment #9)

6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, acceptance of the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act 2020 - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund Grant, in the amount of \$60,263, to be used between March 13, 2020, through September 30, 2022.
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, special education placements and services as per (Attachment #10).
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, school social worker services with Invo Healthcare at a rate of \$65/hour for the 2020-2021 school year. (Attachment #10A)
9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the acceptance of the amended CARES Act - Coronavirus Relief Funds School District Subaward Agreement, in an updated amount of \$37,300.00, to be used between July 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020 for specific purposes as outlined in the agreement. (Attachment #10B)

XIV. Personnel

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Personnel #1-8**

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, Maternity Disability Leave for **Kelly Bakker**, Grade 2 Teacher, effective March 8, 2021, until April 30, 2021. She will be permitted to utilize any accumulated sick days. It is also recommended that Ms. Bakker be granted unpaid Family Leave from May 3, 2021, until June 18, 2021 in accordance with FMLA and NJFLA. Ms. Bakker anticipates returning to work in September 2021. (Attachment #11).
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Maternity Disability Leave for **Victoria Tiscia**, Art Teacher, effective February 9, 2021, until April 6, 2021. She will be permitted to utilize any accumulated sick days. It is also recommended that Ms. Tiscia be granted unpaid Family Leave from April 7, 2021, until June 18, 2021 in accordance with FMLA and NJFLA. Ms. Tiscia anticipates returning to work in September 2021. (Attachment #12).
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of Donna Ruberto, leave replacement Social Worker, effective immediately. (Attachment #13)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of JoAnne DiPaola, to the Substitute Teacher List for 2020-2021 school year. (Attachment # 14)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of Ann Cooke, The Learning Consultant, LLC., for LDT-C Services for the Child Study Team, from September 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020, at a rate of \$50 per hour.

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6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following staff member to serve as mentor for the 2020-2021 school year:

Staff Member:	Assignment:	Amount:
Elizabeth Shimwell	Teresa Banks 9/1/2020-12/1/2020	\$738 (prorated @ 14 wks= \$344.40)

7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following 2020-2021 School Year Stipend Positions, contingent upon student enrollment for those student activities subsidized in accordance with Board Policy 2436, Activity Participation Fee Program. **Note these clubs will be held virtually unless otherwise notified and approved.*

Activity	Staff	Rate
Art Club Advisor Gr. 3-4	Victoria Tiscia	\$34.07/session NTE 30 sessions
Art Club Advisor Gr. 5-6	Victoria Tiscia	\$34.07/session NTE 30 sessions
Art Club Advisor Gr. 7-8	Victoria Tiscia	\$34.07/session NTE 30 sessions

8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Gary Chan to complete his 150 internship hours as required by Ramapo College course EDLD 610-96 Field-Based Administrative Internship I. (Attachment #14A)

XV. Policy

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

Moved: Mr. Gioia Seconded: Dr. Guidici Pietro

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 for the first reading:

P/R1581	Domestic Violence	P-Revised/Mandated R-New
P2422	Health and Physical Education	Revised/Mandated
P2464	Gifted and Talented Students	Revised/Mandated
P2622	Student Assessment	Revised/Mandated
P8561	Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs	Revised/Mandated

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2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following policies for the second reading and adoption:

P5111	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students	Revised/Mandated
P5200	Attendance	Revised/Mandated

XVI. Old Business - none

XVII. New Business -

- Dr. Guidicipietro, Borough Council Liaison, along with Mrs. Walling, will attend the 125th anniversary of Mountainside on 10/22 at Constitution Plaza which will be televised on local Ch. 35. They will open a time capsule from 1995. Local organizations can contact council members Rachel Pater and Deanna Andre to donate items for the new time capsule that will be closed on Dec. 1st.
- Mr. Hyman, Library Liaison, reported beginning Nov. 7th, the library will also be open on Saturdays 10-1 pm, in addition to current hours M/W/F 10-5 & Tu/Th 1-8. Computers are available for an hour at a time.
- Mrs. Walling highlighted changes to the updated calendar that revised a number of upcoming early dismissal days and conference dates to “remote for all” days to best balance the needs of students, working parents, and contractual obligations of teachers.

XVIII. Committee Reports -

- Buildings & Grounds Committee: Mr. Gioia reported that there are ongoing discussions regarding facility use. He noted the district will be upgrading air filtration by installing Merv 11 filters. He gave an update on the Long-Range Facilities Plan. The committee discussed the Coronavirus Relief Fund Grant & Securing our Children’s Future Bond Act Grant application.
- Curriculum Committee: Mrs. Schiano reported that there will be a major overhaul of curriculum, as Mrs. Walling and the committee along with teachers continue to work on a variety of curricular updates. She commended teachers for their work on this project thus far.

XIX. Public Participation - none

XX. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Gioia at 8:39 p.m., seconded by Dr. Guidicipietro to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 7 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Raymond Slamb
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary