

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
December 15, 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 - joined the meeting at 8:04 p.m.
Mr. James Ruban, Jr.
Mrs. Candice Schiano

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

Mr. Carmine Venes was absent.

III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

Moved: Mr. Gioia Seconded: Dr. Guidici Pietro

RC: Dillon -yes Gioia -yes Guidici Pietro -yes Hyman -absent
 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.

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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: Dr. Guidici Pietro Seconded: Mrs. Schiano

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

The public meeting reconvened at 8:00 p.m.

V. Flag Salute

VI. Approval of Minutes

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro Seconded: Mr. Hyman

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

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 17, 2020
- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of November 17, 2020

VII. Correspondence - Letter from the MEA dated 11/24/20

VIII. Public Participation - none

IX. President's Report - Mr. Ruban and other board members thanked Mr. Gioia for his guidance, support and honesty while serving the community as a board member for many years. Mr. Gioia responded, thanking Mr. Ruban and the other members of the board, as well as Mrs. Walling, and the staff for all their hard work. He discussed some of the accomplishments achieved during his time on the board and thanked everyone for their support.

X. Superintendent's Report - Mrs. Walling thanked Mr. Gioia for his years of dedication on the Board of Education. She recognized 8th graders for their virtual mural and Mrs. Tiscia for her work to help support this special tradition.. She recognized Mr. Rosenblum and his chorus for their contribution to the CD "*Simple Prayers for Challenging Times*". She provided an academic update which included information on evaluation of programming and assessment tools being used this year, and information on how new benchmark programs such as iReady, LinkIt, as well as Teacher's College for reading running records, are being utilized to determine student needs and adjust instructional structure to meet those needs. Mr. Hyman and Mrs. Schiano posed some questions on these topics to which Mrs. Walling responded. She discussed school health updates, and the prudent decision for January 4th-8th to be a fully remote week of instruction for all students. She reminded everyone of the snow day policy that was sent out this week. Mrs. Walling thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication to keeping schools healthy and safe.

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XI. Business Administrator's Report - Mr. Slamb thanked Mr. Gioia for his hard work and dedication to the Board of Education. He congratulated Dr. Guidicipietro on her reelection and Mrs. Pupo who was newly elected and will be joining the Board in January. He discussed a project to upgrade to touchless faucets and flushometers and also the upgrade from Chromebooks to laptops for staff.

XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report - Mr. Gioia reported the retirement of Board members Bill Cassano and Gerard Crisonino, wished them luck in the future, and welcomed newly elected board members.

XIII. Administration

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

Moved: Mr. Gioia Seconded: Dr. Guidicipietro

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

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the Resolution honoring Mr. Dante Gioia, Mountainside Board of Education member. (Attachment #2)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following curricular documents for Mountainside Schools:

| Subject Area | Grade Levels |
|--------------|---|
| Math | Grades 2, 3, 5, 6, Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry |
| Spanish | Grades 5, 6, 8 |

3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools November 2020 safety and security drill reports. (Attachment #3)

XIV. Budget and Finance

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-7**

Moved: Mr. Gioia Seconded: Dr. Guidicipietro

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

Mr. Hyman asked if the touchless faucets and flushometers were for both buildings and if Mr. Slamb could elaborate on the upgrade to laptops. Mr. Gioia asked what the difference in price between Chromebooks and laptops would be. Mr. Dillon asked if the laptops were for all staff. Mr. Slamb responded to all questions.

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the month of November 2020 (Attachment #4).

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2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated November 19, 2020, through December 17, 2020 (Attachment #5).
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of November 2020 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of November 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 November 2020:

RESOLVED THAT, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the month of November 2020 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for November 2020 as submitted and certified (Attachment #6).

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the use of Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act 2020 - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief grant funds, to provide a stipend for contact tracing support to school nurses, **Lisa Bruno** and **Sonia Branco**, in the amount of \$2,000 each.
5. Move to approve upon recommendation of the Superintendent, award of the following for the District Wide Touchless Upgrade Project:

Materials: Ferguson Enterprises LLC in the amount of \$18,983.76
Installation: Alltec Inc. in the amount of \$12,550.00

Total project amount of \$31,533.76 to be funded through a transfer of funds from the Deerfield Girl's Locker Room Pipe Repair Project and an additional withdrawal from capital reserve NTE \$20,000 . (Attachment #6A)

6. 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 #7). 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.
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the lease proposal from Lenovo Financial Services for 90 Lenovo laptops at a cost of \$22,303.35 a year for five years, to be funded by Coronavirus Relief Fund grant in the 2020-2021 school year.

XV. Personnel

Mrs. Walling mentioned that she is very excited about the developmental basketball club which will be done in cohorts and provide a great opportunity for students. Mr. Hyman stated that he is impressed with staff and school leadership who have found ways to continue to make things happen. Thank you to everyone.

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

Moved: Mr. Gioia Seconded: Dr. Guidici Pietro

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

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of **Isaiah James**, to the position of Music Teacher (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 February 3, 2021, until March 26, 2021, upon successful criminal background check. Mr. James will also be added to the Substitute Teacher List for the 2020-2021 school year. (Attachment #8)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of **Teresa Banks**, to the position of 6th Grade Leave Replacement, at the per diem rate of \$185, effective December 2, 2020, until approximately January 14, 2021, and 2nd Grade Leave Replacement from March 3, 2021 through June 18, 2021. Ms. Banks will return to her paraprofessional position in between these assignments.
3. 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 12/2/2020-3/26/2021 | \$738 (total) (prorated @ 16 wks= \$393.60) |

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an unpaid extended Family Leave in accordance with FMLA and NJFLA for **Rebecca Tafaro**, Grade 3 Special Education, from January 26, 2021 through June 30, 2021. (Attachment #9)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, for **Dana Peterson**, Orton Gillingham instructor, to provide 3 additional student sessions per week from December 1, 2020 through June 18, 2021, at a rate of \$100/session.
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a medical leave of absence for Employee #91011247, from November 30, 2020 until approximately January 12, 2021.
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of **Nicole Tyburski** to the 2020-2021 Substitute Teacher List, pending paperwork. (Attachment #10)
8. 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.

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| Activity | Staff | Rate |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Asst. Play Director | Ellie Barkin-Baron | \$2,399 |
| Basketball Developmental Club | Nicole Cruts | \$3,096 (1-2 yr rate) |
| Basketball Developmental Club | Dan Kessler | \$3,538 (3+ yr. rate) |

XVI. 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 -absent

Mr. Gioia commented that P2431.3 could be more clear.

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following for first reading:

| | | |
|-------------|--|------------------|
| P 2431.3 | Heat Participation Policy for Student-Athlete Safety | Revised/Mandated |
| P/R 5330.04 | Administering an Opioid Antidote | Revised/Mandated |
| P/R 5610 | Suspension | Revised/Mandated |
| P 5620 | Expulsion | Revised/Mandated |
| P 8420 | Emergency and Crisis Situations | Revised/Mandated |

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

| | | |
|---------|--|------------------|
| 0164.6 | Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency | New/Mandated |
| R5200 | Attendance | Revised/Mandated |
| R5533 | Student Smoking | Mandated |
| R5600 | Student Discipline/Code of Conduct | Revised |
| P/R5610 | Suspension/Suspension Procedures | Revised/Mandated |
| P/R8320 | Personnel Records | Revised/Mandated |

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XVII. Old Business - none

XVIII. New Business - Mr. Ruban mentioned there will be a BA report included on future agendas; Mrs. Schiano discussed the idea of a change in future board meeting start times to begin at 6:30 pm; Dr. Guidici Pietro congratulated Mr. Rosenblum and his students for their part in the CD recording.

XIX. Committee Reports - Personnel Committee - Mr. Dillon summarized committee's discussion and recommendation to move forward with nurses' contact tracing stipends

XX. Public Participation - Several community members thanked Mrs. Walling and staff for their hard work to keep schools open. Someone asked about alignment of curriculum and iReady and data information for parents to support students. Someone else asked if activities/sports will be pushed back beyond Jan. 11th, and another asked about Chromebooks. Mrs. Walling responded to all.

XXI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Gioia at 9:49 p.m., seconded by Dr. Guidici Pietro to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 6 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Raymond Slamb
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary