

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
January 26, 2021**

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 6:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

At roll call, the following members were present:

Mr. Bill Dillon
Dr. Dana Guidiciopietro
Mr. Jordan Hyman
Mrs. Vivian Pupo
Mr. James Ruban, Jr.
Mrs. Candice Schiano
Mr. Carmine Venes

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

III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

Moved: Dr. Guidiciopietro

Seconded: Mr. Venes

RC: Dillon - yes Guidiciopietro - yes Hyman - yes Pupo - 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 6:32 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: Dr. Guidicipietro
RC: Dillon - yes Guidicipietro - yes Hyman - yes Pupo - yes
 Ruban -yes Schiano - yes Venes -yes

The public meeting reconvened at 7:26 p.m.

V. Flag Salute

VI. Approval of Minutes

Moved: Mr. Hyman Seconded: Dr. Guidicipietro
RC: Dillon - yes Guidicipietro - yes Hyman - yes Pupo - yes
 Ruban -yes Schiano - yes Venes -abstain

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2020
- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of December 15, 2020
- ❖ Minutes of the Reorganization Meeting of January 5, 2021

VII. Correspondence - none

VIII. Public Participation - none

IX. President's Report - none

X. Superintendent's Report - Mrs. Walling recognized current and past board members as part of the New Jersey School Boards School's Board Recognition Month. She also honored the winners of this year's Teachers, Educational Service Professionals and Support Staff of the Year. Mrs. Walling provided updates on mid-year benchmarks administered by i-Ready and LinkIt, and noted the student population is about 88% in-person after our 3rd transition. Looking forward to next year's planning, she mentioned we are currently staying with ½ day PEAK structure and exploring ways to expand opportunities on meeting students' needs. The District is exploring the expansion of our Special Education area with a self-contained classroom at Beechwood, to increase services and programming for students for the 21-22 school year.

XI. Business Administrator's Report - Mr. Slamb said the CAFR submission will be on Feb. 5th and the auditor will be making a presentation at the February Board meeting on it's audit results. He noted that the project to upgrade to touchless faucets and flushometers have supplies in stock, and we are just waiting on delivery and installation to be scheduled. Mr. Slamb is preparing the District's projections for the March 22nd adoption of the tentative budget for the 21-22 school year.

XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report - Mr. Hyman reported that they held their meeting on Jan. 7th, electing Doug Reinstein, President and Mike D'Aquila, VP. Cohort A returned to live instruction

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this week. Governor Livingston High School is putting together a new Diversity/Equity/Inclusion Task Force and offering 2 new electives on race in 21st Century America and The History of Hip Hop and Rap Lyrics. Gender neutral restrooms have opened at the high school. There is a staggered return to winter sports with no spectators and events will be live-streamed instead. The next meeting will be on Feb. 4th.

XIII. Administration

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Administration #1-6**

Moved: Dr. Guidiciopietro

Seconded: Mr. Venes

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

1. **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2021 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time when all residents can acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members; and

WHEREAS, The Mountainside Board of Education is one of more than 581 local school boards in New Jersey, which sets policies and oversees operations for public school districts; and

WHEREAS, The Mountainside Board of Education embraces the goal of high-quality education for all New Jersey public school students; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey’s local school boards help determine the educational goals for approximately 1.4 million children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey’s 5,000 local school board members, who receive no remuneration for their services, act as advocates for public school students as they work with administrators, teachers and parents for the betterment of public education; and

WHEREAS, School boards strive to provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of all students, including those with special needs; and

WHEREAS, Boards of education provide accountability to the public; they communicate the needs of the school district to the public; and they convey to school administrators the public’s expectations for the schools; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey can take pride in its schools, which rank among the nation’s best in key achievement indicators such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores, and the preparation for college through advanced placement offerings and SAT assessments;

Now, therefore, be it **RESOLVED**, That the Mountainside Board of Education, does hereby recognize the services of local school board members throughout New Jersey as we join communities statewide in observing January 2021 as SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH;

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and be it further **RESOLVED**, That the Mountainside Board of Education urges all New Jersey citizens to work with their local boards of education and public school staffs toward the advancement of our children’s education.

2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Statement of Assurance Regarding the Use of Paraprofessional Staff – 2020-2021 School Year (Attachment #2)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklist Statement of Assurance – 2020-2021 School Year (Attachment #3)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following curricular documents for Mountainside Schools:

Subject Area	Grade Levels
Physical Education	3-5, 6-8
Health	6

5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a revision to the 2020-2021 school calendar. (Attachment #3A)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools December 2020 safety and security drill reports (Attachment #4).

XIV. Budget and Finance

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-10**

Moved: Mr. Hyman

Seconded: Mr. Venes

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

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the month of December 2020 (Attachment #5).
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated December 18, 2020, through January 27, 2021 (Attachment #6).
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of December 2020 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of December 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

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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 December 2020:

December 2020 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for December 2020 as submitted and certified (Attachment #7).

4. Be it resolved that the Board of Education of the Mountainside School District in the county of Union, hereby approves the submission of a major amendment to the Long Range Facilities Plan to the Department of Education for review and approval. It is further understood that the District is not seeking funding at the current time.
5. **RESOLVED THAT**, by the School Board of Mountainside School District, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that it hereby appoints Raymond Slamb as the School Alliance Insurance Fund Commissioner, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Fund Commissioner, Raymond Slamb, and the School Alliance Insurance Fund.

6. **RESOLVED THAT**, by the School Board of Mountainside School District approve the following banks to act as a depository for public funds, and that all checks, drafts or other orders for payment or withdrawal of money from said account be signed by the person holding the appropriate title as listed below:

Account	Bank	Signatories
Operating	Valley Bank	Board President/Business Administrator
Payroll	Valley Bank	Board President/Business Administrator
Food Service	Valley Bank	Superintendent/Business Administrator
Payroll Agency	Valley Bank	Superintendent/Business Administrator
SUI	Valley Bank	Superintendent/Business Administrator
BW School General Fund	Valley Bank	Beechwood Principal/ Business Administrator/Superintendent
DF School General Fund	Valley Bank	Deerfield Principal/Deerfield Secretary
DF Athletic Fund	Valley Bank	Deerfield Principal/Deerfield Secretary
DF Student Council Fund	Valley Bank	Deerfield Principal/Student Council Advisor

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7. **WHEREAS**, Raymond Slamb, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary possesses a Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) certificate;

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 with a Qualified Purchasing Agent , from \$40,000 to \$44,000, effective July 1, 2020;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mountainside Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 (a) and N.J.A.C. 5:34-5.4, establishes and sets the bid threshold amount of \$44,000 for the Board of Education, and further authorizes Raymond Slamb, the Qualified Purchasing Agent, 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 of the newly established bid threshold amount.

8. 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 (PEAK) for the 2021-2022 school year: \$4,000 for 5 half day sessions.
9. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board concurs with the agreement with LearnWell Education for 10 hours of educational services per week at \$50 an hour , for student #1601696101.
10. 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 #8). 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.

XV. Personnel

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Personnel #1-11**

Moved: Mr. Hyman

Seconded: Mr. Venes

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

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to recognize the following staff members for their dedication to the students, families, and staff of the Mountainside School District. Their support, professionalism, and commitment is recognized and appreciated on a daily basis:

Beechwood School	
Julie Lima - Special Education Teacher	Teacher of the Year
Lisa Bruno - School Nurse	Educational Services Professional of the Year
Maria DeAnna - Paraprofessional	Support Staff of the Year

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Deerfield School	
Sharon Scanlan - 7th Gr. LAL Teacher	Teacher of the Year
Natalie Crisafulli - Math Specialist	Educational Services Professional of the Year
Carolee Lavey - Media Assistant	Support Staff of the Year

2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of **Kimberly Richards**, Deerfield Principal, from her position, effective June 30, 2021, and thank her for her 11 years of service. (Attachment #9)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of **Pat Debbie**, Paraprofessional, effective December 31, 2020 , and thank her for her over 23 years of service. (Attachment #10)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of **Victoria Tischia**, Art Teacher, from her stipend position of Art Club Advisor for Grades 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8, effective February 5, 2021.
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of **Gillian Furniss** to the position of Art Teacher (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 February 5, 2021, until June 18, 2021, upon successful criminal background check. Ms. Furniss will also be added to the 2020-2021 substitute list. (Attachment #11)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the extended appointment of **Teresa Banks**, to the position of 6th Grade Leave Replacement, at the per diem rate of \$185, effective January 15, 2021, through February 2021, as necessary.
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **Natalie Crisafulli** to complete her 150 internship hours as required by Ramapo College course EDLD 612-96 Field-Based Administrative Internship II. (Attachment #12)
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **Ellie Barkin-Baron** to complete her third and final administrative internship hours with Kimberly Richards, as required by The College of New Jersey course EDAD691-02: The Principalship II. (Attachment #13)
9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a medical leave of absence for **Employee #91011247**, from January 12, 2021 until approximately February 10, 2021.
10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the approval of **Christine Kiesewetter**, to be a substitute paraprofessional for the 2020-2021 school year.
11. 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
Art Club Advisor - Grade 3/4	Gillian Furniss	\$34.07/session NTE 14 sessions (prorated for partial year)
Art Club Advisor - Grade 5/6	Taylor Donato	\$34.07/session NTE 15 sessions (prorated for partial year)
Art Club Advisor- Grade 7/8	Gillian Furniss	\$34.07/session NTE 11 sessions (prorated for partial year)

XVI. Policy

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

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro

Seconded: Mr. Venes

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

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

P 1620	Administrative Employment Contracts	Revised/Mandated
P/R 5330.05	Seizure Action Plan	New/Mandated
P 6440	Cooperative Purchasing	Revised/Mandated
P/R 6470.01	Electronic Funds Transfer & Claimant Certification	New/Mandated
P/R 7440	School District Security	Revised/Mandated
P 7450	Property Inventory	Revised/Mandated

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

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

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XVII. Old Business - none

XVIII. New Business - Mr. Hyman reported that the public library has three new Board of Trustees members, including Mrs. Pupo. They are currently open for curbside pick up, and hope to reopen fully in the future. Mrs. Walling confirmed their flyer to sign up for new library cards is part of the kindergarten packet going out to families.

XIX. Committee Reports - Mr. Dillion reported that the Budget and Finance Committee met twice and discussed PEAK tuition, excess surplus utilization and reserve deposits, Special Education expansion, and the many yet unknown variables for next year's budget. Mrs. Walling will be setting up other committee meetings in the next few weeks.

XX. Public Participation - Steven Matejek introduced himself as the new Borough of Mountainside Liaison to the Board of Education. He is a resident, parent and alumni, and looks forward to working with the board.

XXI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Venes at 8:14 p.m., seconded by Dr. Guidici Pietro to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 7 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Raymond Slamb
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary