

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
March 16, 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 6:32 p.m.

II. Roll Call

At roll call, the following members were present:

Mr. Bill Dillon
Mr. Jordan Hyman
Dr. Dana Guidici Pietro
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 and Isabel Machado, Board Attorney.

III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro

Seconded: Mr. Venes

RC: Dillon - yes Guidici Pietro - 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
2. HIB updates

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 6:35 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. Hyman Seconded: Mrs. Pupo
RC: Dillon - yes Guidici Pietro - yes Hyman - yes Pupo - yes
 Ruban -yes Schiano - yes Venes -yes

The public meeting reconvened at 7:31 p.m.

V. Flag Salute

VI. Approval of Minutes

Moved: Mr. Venes Seconded: Mr. Hyman
RC: Dillon - yes Guidici Pietro - yes Hyman - yes Pupo - yes
 Ruban -yes Schiano - yes Venes -yes

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 23, 2021
- ❖ Minutes of the 1st Executive Session of February 23, 2021
- ❖ Minutes of the 2nd Executive Session of February 23, 2021

VII. Public Participation - none

VIII. President’s Report - none

IX. Superintendent’s Report - Mrs. Walling presented Curriculum Alignment Between BHPS and Mountainside, with Dr. Varley, Mrs. Kopacz, Mr. Ziobro, and Mrs. Crisafulli. Several board members commented on the hard work and positive changes this articulation is having in both districts. Board members asked about metrics used to track progress and early examples of benefits, to which the presenters responded. Beside the areas of study included now (Math, LAL, Social Studies, Science and Spec. Ed.), a board member asked if languages will be included in the future, to which the panel responded. Mrs. Walling provided district updates, noting today as the 1 yr. mark since the pandemic shut down schools. She thanked our community, board and staff for coming together in this difficult year and that our thoughts are with families who have experienced hardships or loss during this time. She noted the calendar and budget reflect reopening to a full day format in September, as long as it’s within the health guidelines. She thanked Laura Madden for assisting over 20 staff to find vaccine appointments. We are looking forward to spring events, such as baseball/softball, Mr. Rosenblum’s outdoor play & a remote robotics club which will occur within the gathering guidelines in place. Mrs. Richards is looking into opportunities for 8th grade celebrations & pool party, as the DC trip is cancelled. Mrs. Walling reminded everyone we are still in the “orange” level with concerns of new variants, so please remain careful and continue to follow health protocols (masks wearing, social distancing) for everyone’s safety. She thanked the administration interns for their work to identify revised qualification measures for the Gifted & Talented program. Lastly, Mrs. Walling noted the Beechwood Principal search is underway, with

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the ad closing tomorrow. She outlined the next steps and process to review over 70 applications and begin interviews.

X. Business Administrator's Report - Mr. Slamb presented the Preliminary Budget for the 2021-2022 School Year. He answered several questions from the Board, and noted he will be submitting the budget to the County Superintendent for review. Mr. Slamb mentioned the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II projected allocations are \$247,000 for general ESSER II, \$25,000 for Learning Acceleration, and \$45,000 for Mental Health Support and Services, for which the district will apply.

XI. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report - Mr. Hyman reported that the Curriculum Alignment presentation was also shared at the last meeting and the BH Board is thrilled with the efforts. The Chief Academic Officer presented Linkit. Mr. Hyman provided an update on the Diversity Taskforce, noting 13 volunteers were selected out of 60 applicants. They will meet regularly and develop plans and metrics. Mr. Hyman reports that although she stated it is a high goal, Dr. Varley is hoping to return to full days this year. Also, the district will have an all remote week following spring break. He noted seniors returned with no cohorts, with other grades returning Apr. 12th. He touched on the return of volleyball and wrestling on Mar. 1st. GL will allow students to play winter and spring sports this year. GL is allowing two parents or guardians at games and cheerleaders have been able to attend basketball games and do halftime routines. New music club met March 1 and the Technology Students Association and Science Olympiad are preparing for State competitions in the next couple of weeks.

XII. Administration

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

Moved: Mr. Venes Seconded: Dr. Guidici Pietro

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

1. Move to accept the Superintendent’s recommendations on HIB incident dated February 28, 2021.
2. Move to accept the Superintendent’s recommendations on HIB incident dated March 3, 2021.
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2021-2022 School Year Calendar (Attachment #2).
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools February 2021 safety and security drill reports (Attachment #3).

XIII. Budget and Finance

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

Moved: Mr. Venes Seconded: Mrs. Schiano

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

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1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of *revised* budget transfers for the month of January 2021 (Attachment #4).
2. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the *revised* Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of January 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary, Raymond Slamb, certifies that subject to the approval of *revised* 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 *revised* Reports of the Board Secretary for January 2021:

the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for January 2021 as submitted and certified (Attachment #5).

3. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the month of February 2021 (Attachment #6).
4. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated February 25, 2021, through March 17, 2021 (Attachment #7).
5. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of February 2021 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of February 2021; 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 February 2021:

the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of February 2021 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for February 2021 as submitted and certified (Attachment #8).

6. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the tentative budget be approved for the 2021-2022 school year and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUES	DEBT SERVICE	TOTAL
2021-22 Total Expenditures	\$19,185,137	\$223,013	\$1,642,971	\$21,051,121
Less: Anticipated Revenues	\$1,923,488	\$223,013	\$450,043	\$2,596,544
Taxes to Be Raised	\$17,261,649	\$0	\$1,192,928	\$18,454,577

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And to advertise said tentative budget in the Westfield Leader in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that included in this budget, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, the maximum travel expenditure amount shall be set at \$16,500.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held at the Deerfield School Gym, Mountainside, New Jersey, on April 27, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2021-2022 school year.

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the use of \$147,172.00 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 approval of withdrawal from capital reserve in the amount \$60,000 for the LED and HVAC Upgrade Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mountainside Board of Education authorize the approval of withdrawal from tuition reserve in the amount of \$155,000 for the purpose of 2021-2022 tuition expenditures.

7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the cooperative agreement between the Mountainside Board of Education and Berkeley Heights for a middle school wrestling program. (Attachment #9)
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the agreement with Durham School Services to provide transportation for spring sports, at a rate of \$380.00 per bus for the first 4 hours, and \$95.00 for every hour thereafter.
9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the amended Independent Contractors/Physicians/Agencies list for 2020-2021 to include the attached. (Attachment #10)
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 #11). 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.

XIV. Personnel

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

Moved: Mr. Venes

Seconded: Mr. Hyman

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

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Mr. Hyman asked how our substitute coverage has been, to which Mrs. Walling responded. Mr. Dillon asked why there was not a game assistant for baseball, to which Mrs. Walling responded.

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the extended unpaid Family Leave for **Tom Wise**, Music Teacher, effective from April 5, 2021 through May 7, 2021, in accordance with FMLA and NJFLA. Mr. Wise anticipates returning to school on May 10, 2021. (Attachment #12)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the extended appointment of **Isaiah James**, as Music Teacher (Leave Replacement), at the per diem rate of \$185, effective April 5, 2021, until May 11, 2021.
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of **Nick Lurie**, to the position of long-term substitute, 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 February 25, 2021 through June 18, 2021.
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of **Laura Zimmerman**, to the Substitute Teacher List for 2020-2021 school year, pending successful criminal background check and paperwork. (Attachment #13)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of **Susan Montesano**, paraprofessional, effective March 29, 2021, and thank her for her service. (Attachment #14)
6. 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.

Activity	Staff	Rate
Baseball Head Coach	Zachary Worswick	\$3,538
Baseball Asst. Coach	Dan Kessler	\$2,655
Softball Head Coach	Chris Eckert	\$3,538
Softball Asst. Coach	Gary Chan	\$2,210
Game Assistant	April Starling (Softball)	\$34.07/session NTE 30 sessions
Robotics Club	Axl Hirsch	\$33.12/session NTE 25 sessions

XV. Policy

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

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Moved: Mr. Hyman

Seconded: Dr. Guidiciopietro

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

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

R 1642	Earned Sick Leave Law	Revised/Mandated
P 1643	Family Leave	New/Mandated
P 7425	Lead Testing of Water in Schools	Revised/Mandated
R 7425	Lead Testing of Water in Schools	New/Mandated

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

Bylaw 0145	Board Member Resignation and Removal	Revised/Mandated
P 2431	Athletic Competition	Revised/Mandated
R 2431.1	Emergency Procedures for Sports and Other Athletic Activity	New/Mandated
P 4125	Support Staff Members	Revised/Mandated

3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to abolish the following policies/regulations:

P 3431.3	NJ Family Leave Insurance Program
P4431.3	NJ Family Leave Insurance Program
P/R 7430	School Safety
P 2415.01	Academic Standards, Academic Assessments, and Accountability
P 2415.03	Highly Qualified Teachers

XVI. Old Business - none

- XVII. New Business - Library Liaison, Mrs. Pupo attended a meeting on 3/15, noting a new website will be up April 5th and a possible reopening on April 12th. Virtual programs are being offered by Friends of the Library - March 16th, History of NJ Shore; March 30th at 7pm, NJ State Parks; April 13th at 7pm, Why Gap Years Matter More Than Ever. To attend email**

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info@mountainsidelibrary.org. PTO Liaison, Dr. Guidici Pietro reported Parent Education Night was very informative. They are hoping upcoming activities can take place. Senior Liaison, Mrs. Pupo spoke with Kim Moriak and discussed ideas on how students can work with seniors. Hoping to have updates on opportunities.

XVIII. Committee Reports - Budget and Finance: Met on Friday March 12th. Mr. Dillion reported they reviewed the budget and were supportive of budget recommendations. He thanked Mr. Slamb for his hard work on the presentation and for taking the time to walk committee members through budget information and for being available to answer questions.

XIX. Public Participation - none

XX. 2nd Executive Session

Moved: Mr. Venes Seconded: Mrs. Pupo

RC: Dillon - yes Guidici Pietro - 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 9:13 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. No action was taken.

XXI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mrs. Schiano at 11:25 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Pupo to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 7 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Raymond Slamb
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary