

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
April 27, 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 - arrived at 6:36 p.m.  
Mr. Carmine Venes

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

**III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)**

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

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 6:34 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. Schiano  
RC:                      Dillon - yes      Guidici Pietro - yes      Hyman - yes      Pupo - yes  
                                 Ruban -yes      Schiano - yes                      Venes -yes

The public meeting reconvened at 7:27 p.m.

**V. Flag Salute**

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

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

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 16, 2021
- ❖ Minutes of the 1st Executive Session of March 16, 2021
- ❖ Minutes of the 2nd Executive Session of March 16, 2021

**VII. Public Participation - none**

**VIII. President's Report - none**

**IX. Superintendent's Report** - Mrs. Walling provided district updates, including data that anticipates we will have over 95% of students in person as of the next transition. She outlined ideas for a new remote instruction format that will begin in May, which will be more synchronous and will help prepare students and staff for September. Mrs. Walling is exploring opportunities for summer learning for students. She noted the end-of-the-year activities that Mrs. Richards and 8th grade parents have been planning, including outdoor graduation plans. Mrs. Richards is also working on a digital archive of 8th grade photos going back over 80 years. Together with BNL's donation to digitize, and help from the community to gather photos, this is sure to be a Deerfield treasure. Mr. Rosenblum and Ms. Barkin are working hard on the school play, a movie under the stars event. The traditional PTO Bike Rodeo will take place within health protocols and the PTO Science Fair will be done virtually. Mrs. Jenks and PTO are in the planning stages. Finally, Mrs. Walling is pleased to introduce the new Beechwood Principal, Jessica Vierschilling, who was in attendance. Mrs. Vierschilling said she is honored and excited to begin.

**X. Business Administrator's Report** - Mr. Slamb provided an update on the completion of the Touchless Upgrade Project. He then presented the Final Budget for the 2021-2022 School Year. Mr. Dillon asked about LED/HVAC upgrades and subscription busing costs, to which Mr. Slamb responded.

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**XI. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report** - Mr. Hyman reported that Dr. Varley gave updates on their diversity initiatives. Some events that the DEI task force helped organize are a Literary Circle, Yoga Club, Holocaust Awareness, Woman’s Leadership and more. Ms. Fellazolla presented the 21/22 Budget. They discussed technology changes that will be a part of the 22/23 budget, converting from iPads to Chromebooks. There were spring sports updates and BH will be having a virtual school play. The GL hockey team won the Kelly Cup Championship (only 2nd time in school history). GL had a list of college acceptances, and there was a presentation of full day kindergarten that included redistricting implications.

**XII. Administration**

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

Moved: Mr. Venes      Seconded: Mrs. Pupo

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

1. Move to accept the Superintendent’s recommendations on the HIB incident dated March 8, 2021.
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Lead Testing Program Statement of Assurance for 2020-2021. (Attachment #2)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools March 2021 safety and security drill reports. (Attachment #3)

**XIII. Budget and Finance**

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-18**

Moved: Dr. Guidiciopietro                      Seconded: Mrs. Schiano

RC:                    Dillon - yes      Guidiciopietro - 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 March 2021 (Attachment #4).
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated March 1, 2021, through March 31, 2021 (Attachment #5).
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of March 2021 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of March 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 March 2021:

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the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of March 2021 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for March 2021 as submitted and certified (Attachment #6).

4. **WHEREAS**, the Mountainside Board of Education adopted a tentative budget on March 16, 2021 to be submitted to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval, and

**WHEREAS**, the tentative budget was approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools on April 7, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the tentative budget was advertised in the legal section of the Westfield Leader on April 15, 2021; and

	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>SPECIAL REVENUES</b>	<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>2021-22 Total Expenditures</b>	\$19,187,137	\$223,013	\$1,642,971	\$21,053,121
<b>Less: Anticipated Revenues</b>	\$1,925,488	\$223,013	\$450,043	\$2,598,544
<b>Taxes to Be Raised</b>	\$17,261,649	\$0	\$1,192,928	\$18,454,577

**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.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mountainside Board of Education hereby adopts the 2021-2022 School Year budget and,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that there should be raised for the General Funds tax levy \$17,261,649 for the ensuing School Year 2021-2022 and,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that there should be raised for Debt Service tax levy, \$1,192,928, for the ensuing School Year 2021-2022.

**WHEREAS**, the Mountainside Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for

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travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

**WHEREAS**, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$500 per authorized staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1st through June 30th ); and

**WHEREAS**, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq., but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education out of district travel and reimbursement forms; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education out of district travel and reimbursement forms; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b), to a maximum expenditure of \$16,500 for all staff and Board members.

5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Dr. Ronald M. Frank, MD FAAFP, to provide School Physician Services, in the amount \$2,250 (no increase), for the 2021-2022 school year (Attachment #7).
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the agreement between the Mountainside Board of Education and New Jersey School Boards Association to participate in the ACES NJSBA Cooperative Pricing System. (Attachment #8)
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Mountainside School District Purchasing Manual. (Attachment #9)
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the proposal from JAG Consulting, LLC. for information technology services in the 2021-2022 school year at a rate of \$35 an hour. (Attachment #10)
9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the closing of the Student Council Fund bank account at Valley National Bank. Remaining funds of \$731.80 will be transferred to the DF General Student Activities Fund and will be accounted for separately as a subgroup of that fund.
10. RESOLVED, that the Mountainside Board of Education set the annual fee for Subscription Busing for SY 2021-2022 at \$475.

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11. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, renewal of the FSMC base year contract with Maschio's Food Services, Inc. for the 2021-2022 school year. The service management fee is \$9,102 with a guaranteed return of \$1,000 (Attachment #11).
12. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the annual renewal of Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, as the health benefits provider for the Mountainside School District, effective 7/1/2021 through 6/30/2022.
13. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the building use request with the Actor's Camp for building use at Deerfield School from July 5th - July 30th based on Policy 7510, priority 5, and a payment schedule totaling \$7,200, excluding any overtime costs that may be incurred.
14. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept a \$6,000 grant donation from the Watts Foundation, to be used to continue updating the Deerfield Library books. (Attachment #12)
15. Move to approve an agreement for participation in Coordinated Transportation Services between Union County Educational Services Commission and the Mountainside Board of Education for Special Education Transportation for the 2021-2022 school year. (Attachment #13)
16. Move to approve upon recommendation of the Superintendent, an updated cost of \$34,818.76 for the District-Wide Touchless Upgrade Project:

Materials: Ferguson Enterprises LLC in the amount of \$18,983.76 (Unchanged)  
Installation: Alltec Inc. in the amount of \$15,835 (Increase of \$3,285)
17. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, special education placements and services as per (Attachment #14).
18. 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 #15). 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 #1-12**

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, the appointment and employment contract of **Jessica Vierschilling**, Beechwood Principal, for the 2021-2022 school year, upon successful criminal background check. (Attachment #16)

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2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of **Laurie Naftulin** to the position of 1st Grade 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 May 5, 2021 through June 18, 2021, upon successful criminal background check. (Attachment #17)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the certificated tenured personnel list for the 2021-2022 school year. (Attachment #18)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the certificated non-tenured personnel list for the 2021-2022 school year. (Attachment #19)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the secretaries and custodians list for the 2021-2022 school year. (Attachment #20)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Maternity Disability Leave for **Lisa Dent**, Grade 3 Teacher, effective June 14, 2021, until June 18, 2021. She will be permitted to utilize any accumulated sick days. It is also recommended that Mrs. Dent be granted an unpaid Family Leave from September 1, 2021, until November 24, 2021 in accordance with FMLA and NJFLA. Mrs. Dent anticipates returning to work on November 29, 2021. (Attachment #21)
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a medical leave of absence for **Employee #91011247**, from April 2, 2021 until approximately May 14, 2021.
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, notification to take classes from **Ellie Barkin**, STEM Teacher, for class taken at TCNJ for the 2021 Summer Session for three (3) graduate credits in the amount of \$2,154. (Attachment #22)
9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, notification to take classes from **Zachary Worswick**, Physical Education Teacher, for classes taken at University of Missouri – Mizzou, for the 2021 Spring Session for six (6) graduate credits in the amount of \$2,369.40. (Attachment #23)
10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Dana Peterson**, Orton Gillingham instructor, to provide 2 additional weekly sessions, at 50 minutes per session, at a rate of \$100/session, from April 26, 2021 through June 18, 2021.
11. 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
Sue Goracy	Isaiah James 7 wks: 3/22/21-5/7/21	\$738 (prorated for partial weeks) = \$172.20





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

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

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

P 3431.1	Family Leave
P 4431.1	Family Leave

**XVII. Old Business - none**

**XVIII. New Business** - Dr. Guidici Pietro recognized Nicholas Schiano and Ryder Bernholz for 4th place NJ Youth Wrestling State Championship in their age/weight class; Mr. Dillon thanked the staff involved in the Beechwood Principal search process and said that baseball has had a good start to the season. **Library Liaison**, Mrs. Pupo reported that the library is now open, and the website is up and running. The Friends of the Library book sale will be 4/29-30, and the Hetfield House plant sale is 4/29-5/2 from 9-4. The 8th Gr. Scholarship essay contest info will be coming soon. **PTO Liaison**, Dr. Guidici Pietro reported that there will be a modified Spring Fling fundraiser on May 26th, with details to follow. The PTO and Meghan Crilly Scholarships will have information soon.

**XIX. Committee Reports - Budget and Finance**: The committee reviewed the Actor's Camp building request and reviewed the 7510 Policy on building use. They also reviewed the touchless upgrades, budget and tuition for the 21/22 school year, as well as personnel contracts. **Grants/Alternate Funding**: Mr. Hyman thanked Mr. Slamb for the historical information on grants and he looks forward to exploring future grant opportunities.

**XX. Public Participation** - A member of the community asked about programming and budget for the Gifted & Talented Program, to which Mrs. Walling responded. Mr. Rosenblum, Deerfield Music Teacher, thanked the administration for their support of the upcoming school performances on May 14th and 15th, and is excited to have this creative opportunity for the students. He noted that over 140 students have been involved in this production. He provided information on ticket sales, concessions and the mapping for the audience. A member of the community asked about self-contained plans and Special Education staffing, to which Mrs. Walling responded.

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**XXI. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Dr. Guidici Pietro at 8:32 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