

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
October 19, 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 6:31 p.m.

II. Roll Call

At roll call, the following members were present:

Dr. Dana Guidiciopietro - arrived at 6:35 p.m.
Mr. Jordan Hyman
Mrs. Vivian Pupo
Mr. James Ruban, Jr.
Mrs. Candice Schiano
Mr. Carmine Venes

Also present were Janet Walling, Superintendent of Schools, and Michael Falkowski, Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

Mr. Bill Dillon was absent.

III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

Moved:	<u>Mr. Venes</u>	Seconded:	<u>Mrs. Pupo</u>
RC:	Dillon - absent	Guidiciopietro - absent	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. Student Settlement Agreements
2. Tuition Audit

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 6:32 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:	<u>Dr. Guidici Pietro</u>	Seconded:	<u>Mrs. Pupo</u>
RC:	Dillon - absent	Guidici Pietro - yes	Hyman - yes Pupo - yes
	Ruban -yes	Schiano - yes	Venes -yes

The public meeting reconvened at 7:33 p.m.

V. Flag Salute

VI. Approval of Minutes

Moved:	<u>Dr. Guidici Pietro</u>	Seconded:	<u>Mrs. Pupo</u>
RC:	Dillon -absent	Guidici Pietro - yes	Hyman - yes Pupo - yes
	Ruban -yes	Schiano - yes	Venes -yes

- ❖ Minutes of the Special Meeting of September 16, 2021
- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 21, 2021
- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of September 21, 2021

VII. Correspondence - Mr. Ruban received a letter from a resident who lives along Deerfield's property line regarding a tree that they believe is in danger of falling. Mr. DeVico will look into the matter.

VIII. Public Participation - none

IX. President's Report - none

X. Superintendent's Report - Mrs. Walling started by giving an update on the Start Strong Assessments. Students in 4th through 8th grade finished the Assessments over the past two weeks. They were mandated by NJ to measure learning loss and student progress over the past year. The Assessments were also mandated because the school did not have NJSLA testing last spring. Parent reports will be sent to the school in December. The Superintendent is required to report the results of the Assessments within 60-days of receiving the reports. The school does have access to on demand reports which allows the school to look internally for any standards, trends and where students may need help.

Mrs. Walling noted that the month of October is filled with events pertaining to the Week of Respect, Red Ribbon Week, World Bully Prevention Day, and School Violence Awareness Week. Mrs. Walling thanked school counselors for their part in organizing the week, as well as Detective Yasinski from the Mountainside Police Department who met with every class and spoke to them regarding school violence, vandalism, and speaking with a trusted adult.

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Mrs. Walling welcomed the new Interim School Business Administrator, Michael Falkowski. Mrs. Walling also talked about Fire Prevention Week. Students were able to tour a fire truck. Halloween parades will occur this school year for grades K through 5, while grades 6 through 8 may have a virtual contest. PTO is planning a Trunk or Treat for Friday, October 29th.

XI. Business Administrator's Report - Mr. Falkowski gave an update on the Bond Refunding, which is currently on hold because a 3% savings required by law cannot be met. School may be responsible for the Moody's Rating fee of approximately \$25,000 if the Bond Refunding does not occur.

XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report - Mr. Hyman reported that there were two (2) Berkeley Heights Board Meetings since the last Mountainside meeting. Highlights of the meeting held on 9/23 were as follows: approval of 3-year contract extension for Superintendent Dr. Varley, presentation from head of district's DEI task force (report on Berkeley Heights website), Spirit Week, Harry Potter themed recruiting event, Hilltop Players to present "The Show Must Go On" from November 18th through the 20th, travel quarantine in place for students. Highlights of the meeting held on 10/14 were as follows: presentation on inclusive priorities for Special Services, HIB/Violence and Vandalism report, 57% of grade 7 through 12 are vaccinated, status of sports teams & math league, PSAT held on October 13th and college fair held last week. Next meeting is on 11/20.

XIII. Administration

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Administration #1-5**

Moved:	<u>Mrs. Pupo</u>	Seconded:	<u>Mr. Venes</u>
RC:	Dillon - absent	Guidiciopietro - yes	Hyman - yes Pupo - yes
	Ruban -yes	Schiano - yes	Venes -yes

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2021-2022 Nursing Services Plan. (Attachment #2).
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Comprehensive Equity Plan Statement of Assurance for 2021-2022. (Attachment #3)
3. It is recommended by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the Mountainside School District Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan for the 2021-2022 school year as required by the Department of Education. (Attachment #4)
4. It is recommended by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the decision to elect a state vendor to provide district Covid-19 screening testing for the 2021-2022 school year. Mirimus, a testing vendor, has been assigned to the Mountainside School District. The cost of testing will be funded through the State of New Jersey.
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools September 2021 safety and security drill reports. (Attachment #5)

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XIV. Budget and Finance

The Budget & Finance Committee did not hold a meeting.

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-11**

Moved: Mr. Hyman Seconded: Mrs. Schiano
RC: Dillon - absent 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 September 2021. (Attachment #6)
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated September 23, 2021, through October 20, 2021. (Attachment #7)
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of September 2021 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of September 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Interim Board Secretary, Michael Falkowski, 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 2021:

RESOLVED THAT, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the month of September 2021 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for September 2021 as submitted and certified. (Attachment #8)

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the annual Comprehensive Maintenance Plan. (Attachment #9)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the revised shared services agreement for Class II Officer between the Mountainside Board of Education and the Borough of Mountainside for the 2021-2022 school year. (Attachment #10)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the agreement with MUJC to provide transportation in accordance with the attached transportation rate schedule. (Attachment #11)
7. **BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Mountainside Board of Education grants approval for the Superintendent to make an application for and accept subsequent receipt of the ARP IDEA Consolidated Grants for fiscal year 2021 as follows:
 - ARP IDEA Preschool - \$2,617
 - ARP IDEA Basic - \$30,637

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8. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Mountainside Board of Education approve the stipulation of settlement agreement with respect to student #6526072804, a copy of which is on file with the Superintendent of Schools.
9. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Mountainside Board of Education approve the agreement with respect to student #9074404763, a copy of which is on file with the Superintendent of Schools.
10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, special education placements and services as per (Attachment #12).
11. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of the following to the list of Independent Contractors/Physicians/Agencies for the 21-22 school year.

Contact Information	Contact	Budgeted Account Code
Christine S. Ghilain, Ph.D., ABPP-CN Board Certified Clinical Neuropsychologist Director & Owner Brain Health Neuropsychology, LLC	(973) 221-3686	11-000-219-320-000-002 Neuropsychological Evaluation \$4500

XV. Personnel

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Personnel #1-9**

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

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of the following as a part time Lunch Aide for the 2021-2022 school year at a rate of \$14/hour.

Jennifer Sanchez	Lunch Aide (pending paperwork)
Kristy Rubin	Approved Substitute to work as lunch aide as available
Diane Zagorski	Approved Substitute to work as lunch aide as available

2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following teachers for virtual instruction due to quarantine as needed throughout the 2021-2022 school year, at the rate of \$43.29/hour.

Jill Spekhardt	Nancy Kinney	Ramona Dunning
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3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff for 2021-2022 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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Staff Member	Position	Rate
Jeanne Albanese	Game Assistant	\$35.09/session NTE 30 sessions
Jared Rosenblum	Game Assistant	\$35.09/session NTE 30 sessions
Ellie Barkin-Baron	Asst. Play Director	\$2,471
Rachel Halek	*FM Math Club (*Not part of the MEA stipend list)	\$35.09/session NTE 45 total split sessions
Bryan Young	8th Grade Trip Coordinator	\$530

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of the following to the 2021-2022 Substitute Teacher List. (Attachment #13)

Name	Status
Jesse Winter	pending paperwork and successful criminal background check
Pamela Finer	pending paperwork and successful criminal background check
Nicole Tyberski	pending paperwork
Kelli Castro	pending paperwork

5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the request for tuition reimbursement from **Julie Lima**, Special Education Teacher, for an NJIDA Conference course taken at Fairleigh Dickinson University, in the amount of \$150 (Attachment #14)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to increase the hours for **Lisa Arroyo**, paraprofessional, by 30 minutes per day, Thursday and Friday to assist with dismissal, effective October 21, 2021-June 17, 2022.
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to increase the hours for **Sandra Vendas**, paraprofessional, by 30 minutes per day, Monday through Wednesday to assist with dismissal, effective October 21, 2021-June 17, 2022.
8. Move to approve in accordance with MBOE policy 6471, School District Travel, and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the travel, professional development requests, 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. All reimbursements shall be made in accordance with state guidelines 18A:11-12.
9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to increase the hours for **Suzanne Tighe**, paraprofessional, by 30 minutes per day Monday through Wednesday to assist with dismissal, as needed.

A question was asked about staffing and Ms. Walling commented the school is hiring lunch aides, substitutes, and food service workers through Maschio's.

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XVI. Curriculum

Mrs. Walling noted that trips for students will not take place if they do not allow for an alternative to full vaccination, such as proof of a negative COVID test. Mrs. Pupo stated she was happy trips were occurring again. There was a discussion about cancellation policies. Question regarding # of students vaccinated. Mrs. Walling did not have the statistics to report, but stated the school will be required to begin reporting information they have to the State. Mrs. Walling also commented about the success of the in-person back to school night.

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Curriculum #1**

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro Seconded: Mr. Hyman
 RC: Dillon - absent 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 field trips for the 2021-2022 school year, *pending any adjustments due to health and safety guidelines*:

Date	Destination	Grade	Teacher in Charge	Estimated Cost
March 30, 2022	Broadway, NYC	8	Rosenblum	Paid by Students
May 5-6, 2022	Washington, DC	8	Young	\$9,000 paid by BOE \$10,992 various sources \$330 paid per student
TBD	8th Grade Dance Forest Lodge	8	PTO Event	Costs paid by parents and student activities

XVII. Policy

Dr. Guidici Pietro asked about emergency days, like snow days, which the board discussed further. The school can go virtual after 3 days of closure due to "Emergency" reasons.

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

Moved: Mr. Venes Seconded: Mrs. Schiano
 RC: Dillon -absent 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 policies/regulations for the first reading:

P 2425	Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program	New/Mandated
P 2467	Surrogate Parents and Resource Family Parents	Revised/Mandated
P 5111	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students	Revised/Mandated
P 8420	Emergency and Crisis Situations	Revised/Mandated
R 8420.1	Fire and Fire Drills	Revised/Mandated
P 8540	School Nutrition Programs	Revised/Mandated

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

Moved: Mr. Venes Seconded: Dr. Guidici Pietro
RC: Dillon -absent Guidici Pietro - yes Hyman - yes Pupo - yes
 Ruban -no Schiano - yes Venes -yes

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

P 1648.13	School Employee Vaccination Requirements	New/Mandated
P 6115.01	Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls - Allowability of Costs	New/Mandated
P 6115.02	Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls - Mandatory Disclosures	New/Mandated
P 6115.03	Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls - Conflict of Interest	New/Mandated
P 6311	Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants	Revised/Mandated
P 7432	Eye Protection	Revised/Mandated

XVIII. Old Business - none

XIX. New Business - Mr. Venes attended the Union County School Boards Meeting, noting the passing of 3 board members from the County. Guest speaker who was the Coordinator of School and Community for Westfield. The speaker gave tips on how to handle information, such as sticking to the facts at Board meetings, Social Media, accuracy of information on School's website, etc.

Mrs. Pupo had a library meeting and gave an update on the library hours and book sale.

Dr. Guidici Pietro commented on the PTO's Trunk or Treat to be held in the Deerfield parking lot on October 29th.

XX. Committee Reports - none

XXI. Public Participation -

A member of the community made comments that the Governor of NJ is overreaching, civil liberties getting stripped away, and wants the Board to fight against the Governor. Commented on the side effects of COVID testing and extreme measures by Government in Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

Another member of the community made comments on time put in at rally for medical freedom in Trenton, lawsuit filed regarding MRNA vaccines, fully vaccinated individuals can spread COVID, vaccinated are superspreaders and hopes more people will question the vaccine.

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XXII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Dr. Guidici Pietro at 8:36 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Pupo to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 6 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Michael Falkowski
Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary