

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
February 1, 2022**

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 Mrs. Walling, at 6:33 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
Mrs. Candice Schiano
Mr. Carmine Venes

Also present was Janet Walling, Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Ruban was absent.

III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

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

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 6:34 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: Mrs. Pupo Seconded: Mrs. Schiano
RC: Dillon - yes Guidiciopietro - yes Hyman - yes Pupo - yes
 Ruban -absent Schiano - yes Venes -yes

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

V. Flag Salute

VI. Approval of Minutes

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

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 21, 2021
- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of December 21, 2021
- ❖ Minutes of the Reorganization Meeting of January 4, 2022

VII. Correspondence - none

VIII. Public Participation - none

IX. President's Report - none

X. Superintendent's Report - Mrs. Walling thanked the Board members for their dedication to the Mountainside School District for School Board Recognition Month. She then presented a Start Strong Data report with results from last year's testing. Finally, she reported on the School Self Assessment for Determining Anti-Bullying Grades. Mrs. Walling congratulated the Boys' Basketball team for an undefeated season.

XI. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report - Mr. Hyman reported from the January meeting that the 22/23 school calendar was approved. Dr. Varley shared a Start Strong data presentation. There were also updates to winter sports, that wrestling, hockey and basketball teams are all doing well. The next meeting will be on February 8th.

XII. Administration

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

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

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1. **WHEREAS**, the New Jersey State Board of Education, which adopts the administrative code to implement state education law, has established rigorous standards through its promulgation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, which set the expectations of academic achievement for nearly 1.4 million public schoolchildren; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey’s locally elected and appointed boards of education play a vital role in ensuring that their local school districts meet state standards and adhere to state and federal education statute and regulations, with the goal of preparing all students for college and the workplace, thereby enabling them to compete in a global economy; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey’s 5,000 non-partisan local board of education members and charter school trustees are public servants who dedicate their time, without pay or benefit, to the oversight of school district operations, sound financial practices, comprehensive policies, curriculum, staffing, and the well-being and academic achievement of all students in the district; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of local boards of education, in conjunction with state education officials and local educators, have built a foundation of success that has led to New Jersey’s status as a leader in student achievement, as evidenced by the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores; and

WHEREAS, the National School Boards Association and the New Jersey School Boards Association have declared January 2022 to be School Board Recognition Month; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education recognizes the contributions of our state’s local boards of education to the academic success of its public school students and expresses its sincere appreciation to local board of education members for their continued focus on the achievement of children throughout New Jersey; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education encourages qualified New Jersey citizens to consider serving as members on their local school boards.

2. Move to accept the Superintendent’s recommendations on the HIB incident summary dated December 19, 2021.
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Statement of Assurance Regarding the Use of Paraprofessional Staff – 2021-2022 School Year (Attachment #2)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2020-2021 New Jersey Department of Education School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act for Beechwood and Deerfield Schools. (Attachment #3)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools December 2021 safety and security drill reports. (Attachment #4)

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6. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves **Steven Robinson** as Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary from February 8, 2022 thru June 30, 2022, at the per diem rate of \$750.00, as approved by the Union County Superintendent of Schools, pending criminal history and background check.

XIII. Budget and Finance

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-8**

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

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated December 23, 2021, through February 2, 2022. (Attachment #5)
2. **BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of Education hereby approves Steven Robinson as Custodian of Records for Mountainside School District from February 8, 2022 through June 30, 2022.
3. **WHEREAS**, Steven Robinson, 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 February 8, 2022;

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 Steve Robinson, 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.

4. **RESOLVED THAT**, by the School Board of Mountainside School District, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that it hereby appoints Steven Robinson as the School Alliance Insurance Fund Commissioner, and

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

5. **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:

**This motion was amended to add the superintendent as a signatory to Operating and Payroll*

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Account	Bank	Signatories
Operating	Valley Bank	Board President/ Business Administrator/ <i>*Superintendent</i>
Payroll	Valley Bank	Board President/ Business Administrator/ <i>*Superintendent</i>
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

6. 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 2022-2023 school year: \$4,500 for 5 half-day sessions.
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept a \$9,000 grant donation from the Watts Foundation, to be used for the Deerfield Spring Musical. (Attachment #6)
8. 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.

XV. Personnel

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Personnel #1-14**

Moved: Mr. Hyman

Seconded: Mrs. Schiano

RC: Dillon - yes

Guidici Pietro - yes Hyman - yes Pupo - yes

Ruban -absent

Schiano - yes Venes -yes

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the termination of the agreement between the Mountainside Board of Education and School Business Office LLC and to terminate former employee #77427607, both effective January 20, 2022.

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2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of **Teresa Banks**, to the position of 4th Grade Leave Replacement, at the per diem rate of \$185, effective March 8, 2022, through June 21, 2022.
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of **Sophia Puleo**, to the position of 1st Grade Leave Replacement, at the per diem rate of \$150 for the first 20 days, then \$185 per diem for the balance of the assignment, effective January 12, 2022, through June 21, 2022, pending paperwork. (Attachment #8)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the increased hours of the following paraprofessionals, effective the week of February 14, 2022 - June 21, 2022, to cover the maternity leave of Kelcie Sweetwood, as follows:

Staff Member	Additional Hours
Michele Saltalamacchia	7 hours/week
Kiri Williams	7 hours/week
Lydra Shehu	7 hours/week

5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the revised appointment of **Brittany Baldwin**, to the position of School Guidance Counselor at Deerfield School, at a salary of \$57,718, MA Step 1, prorated for the 2021-2022 school year. The position began January 19, 2022. (**previously approved for a 1/24/22 start date*)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of **Michael Lamera** to the 2021-2022 Substitute Teacher List. (Attachment #9)
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of **Gavin Jakositz** to the 2021-2022 Substitute Teacher List. (Attachment #10)
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of **Monika Zmuda**, as a part-time lunch aide at a rate of \$14/hour, for the remainder of the 2021/2022 school year, pending successful criminal background check and paperwork. (Attachment #11)
9. 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.

Julie Lima	Janelle Lauterbach	Kelly Herscheit
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10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the request for tuition reimbursement from **Ellie Barkin-Baron**, STEM Teacher, for class taken at The College of New Jersey, for the 2021 Fall Session for three (3) graduate credits in the amount of \$2,154. (Attachment #12)

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11. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, notification to take classes from **Ellie Barkin-Baron**, STEM Teacher, for class taken at TCNJ for the 2022 Spring Session for three (3) graduate credits in the amount of \$2,154. (Attachment #13)
12. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, notification to take classes from **Julie Lima**, Special Education Teacher, for courses taken at Fairleigh Dickinson for the 2022 Winter Session for ten (10) program credits in the amount of \$150. (Attachment #14)
13. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the use of ARP Federal Grant funds, to provide a stipend for contact tracing support to school nurses, **Lisa Bruno** and **Sonia Branco**, in the amount of \$3,000 each.
14. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following staff member to serve as mentor for the 2021-2022 school year:

Staff Member	Assignment	Amount
Janelle Lauterbach	Sophia Puleo 2/1/22-6/21/22	\$738 (total for 30 weeks) Prorated for 20 weeks: \$492

XVII. Policy

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

Moved: Mr. Venes

Seconded: Mrs. Pupo

RC: Dillon -yes

Guidici Pietro - yes Hyman - yes Pupo - yes

Ruban -absent

Schiano - yes

Venes -yes

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

P 3134	Assignment of Extra Duties	Revised
P 3142	Nonrenewal of Nontenured Teaching Staff Member	Revised
P 4146	Nonrenewal of Nontenured Support Staff Member	Revised

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

P 0131	Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations	Revised
P 5751	Sexual Harassment of Students	Revised/Mandated

XVIII. Old Business - Mrs. Pupo and Mr. Hyman thanked our nurses for their efforts in contact tracing.

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XIX. New Business - Mrs. Pupo reported that the library is open full time. Mr. Hyman complimented students and staff for the winter concert, and other board members concurred. Dr. Guidicipietro mentioned the PTO will hold a meeting on Monday.

XX. Committee Reports - Mr. Venus noted the Negotiations Committee held their initial meeting to set dates. Mr. Dillon noted the Budget and Finance Committee met twice, discussing PEAK tuition rates, bus costs, early budgeting plans, and they are eager to meet the new Business Administrator.

XXI. Public Participation - none

XXII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Venes at 8:31 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Pupo to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 6 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Walling
Superintendent of Schools