

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
April 26, 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 Mr. James Ruban, Jr., at 6:31 p.m.

II. Roll Call

At roll call, the following members were present:

Mr. Bill Dillon
Dr. Dana Guidiciopietro - arrived at 6:40
Mr. Jordan Hyman
Mrs. Vivian Pupo - arrived at 6:45
Mr. James Ruban, Jr.
Mrs. Candice Schiano
Mr. Carmine Venes

Also present were Janet Walling, Superintendent of Schools, and Steven Robinson, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

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

The public meeting reconvened at 7:37 p.m.

V. Flag Salute

VI. Approval of Minutes

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

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 22, 2022
- ❖ Minutes of the 1st Executive Session of March 22, 2022
- ❖ Minutes of the 2nd Executive Session of March 22, 2022

VII. Correspondence - none

VIII. Public Participation - none

IX. President's Report - none

X. Superintendent's Report - Mrs. Walling began with information on NJSLA testing for 3rd-8th graders. The district is part of an ELA Field Test Program, as 50% of schools statewide are participating in as well, due to the lack of testing over the past 2 years. So far everything has been running smoothly. Mrs. Walling mentioned Beechwood participated in an American Heart Association fundraiser, exceeding their goal and raised \$17,000. She thanked the volunteers and Mr. Worswick for their involvement. Deerfield 6th-8th graders are raising funds for MEF with Penny Wars. Mrs. Walling attended MSBL opening day baseball, which was a great day. She mentioned how pleased she is to be able to bring back the many year-end traditions, like the DC trip, art shows, concerts and bike rodeo. She pointed out the new math program on the agenda, and thanked Mrs. Crisafulli and 13 teachers for their research and piloting of the program. This should be an easy transition and will be aligned with Berkeley Heights as well. Mrs. Walling mentioned the new Share 911 emergency system that has been added for enhanced communication. This summer, our Summer Learning Academy will be offered again. Mr. Hyman asked some questions about the math curriculum, NJSLA testing and 8th grade graduation, to which Mrs. Walling responded. Mr. Venes asked if a dip in testing scores is expected, and Mrs. Walling responded that most districts expect this as students in grades 3-5 have never state tested before. However she thanked Mrs. Goldbeck for working with students on the technology aspects and teachers on testing protocols.

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XI. Business Administrator's Report - Mr. Robinson began the public hearing as he presented the final proposed budget. He noted it's been properly advertised, and approved by the county superintendent. He shared the few adjustments made since the draft budget, in areas of high school tuition, transportation, supplies and health insurance. He answered board members' questions, noting the total numbers remain the same and at cap. There were no comments from the public.

XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report - Mr. Hyman noted there was no meeting since his last report. The next meeting is on 4/28. On the agenda will be a new football coach and a discussion about French.

XIII. Administration

Mrs. Schiano spoke with high praises about the new math curriculum as Chair of the Curriculum Committee. She touted the thorough and comprehensive research that went into the decision, and noted the strengths of the program's resources for teachers, parents and students.

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

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro Seconded: Mrs. Schiano
RC: Dillon - yes Guidici Pietro - yes Hyman - yes Pupo - abstained from #2
 Ruban -yes Schiano - yes Venes -yes

1. Move to accept the Superintendent's recommendations of the HIB incident dated March 8, 2022.
2. Move to accept the Superintendent's recommendations of the HIB incident dated March 10, 2022.
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Comprehensive Equity Plan Statement of Assurance for 2022-2023. (Attachment #2)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Lead Testing Program Statement of Assurance for 2021-2022. (Attachment #3)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the purchase of Big Ideas Math: Modeling Real Life Common Core (2022) for grades K-5 mathematics instruction at a cost not to exceed \$65,485.75. Cost will cover a 5-year implementation of the program beginning September 2022.
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools March 2022 safety and security drill reports. (Attachment #4)

XIV. Budget and Finance

Mr. Dillon as Chair of the Budget & Finance Committee commented that they fully support the proposed budget and thanked Steve for his work on it. The committee also reviewed motion #7, and agreed to changing brokers, which will not change the health benefits offered.

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-9**

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Moved: Mr. Hyman Seconded: Mr. Venes
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 2022. (Attachment #5)
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated March 24, 2022, through April 27, 2022. (Attachment #6)
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of March 2022 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of March 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary, Steven Robinson, 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 2022:

the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of March 2022 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for March 2022 as submitted and certified. (Attachment #7)

4. **WHEREAS**, the Mountainside Board of Education adopted a tentative budget on March 22, 2022 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 March 24, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the tentative budget was advertised in the legal section of the Westfield Leader on April 21, 2022; and

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUES	DEBT SERVICE	TOTAL
2022-23 Total Expenditures	\$19,833,280	\$223,013	\$1,590,602	\$21,646,895
Less: Anticipated Revenues	\$2,192,797	\$223,013	\$448,072	\$2,863,882
Taxes to Be Raised	\$17,640,483	\$0	\$1,142,530	\$18,783,013

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mountainside Board of Education authorize the approval of withdrawal from tuition reserve in the amount of \$201,317 for the purpose of 2022-2023 tuition expenditures, and the withdrawal of \$60,000 from capital reserves for the purpose of 2022-2023 capital expenditures.

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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mountainside Board of Education hereby adopts the 2022-2023 School Year budget and,

BE IT RESOLVED that there should be raised for the General Funds tax levy \$17,640,483 for the ensuing School Year 2022-2023 and,

BE IT RESOLVED that there should be raised for Debt Service tax levy, \$1,142,530, for the ensuing School Year 2022-2023.

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

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3 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 of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Mountainside Board of Education established \$16,500 as the maximum travel amount for the current school year and has expended \$3,290 as of this date; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, to a maximum expenditure of \$22,000 for the 2022-2023 school year.

5. 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 #8)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the proposal from JAG Consulting, LLC. for information technology services in the 2022-2023 school year at a rate of \$35 an hour. (Attachment #9)
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, effective May 1, 2022, to appoint IMAC Insurance Agency as our broker-of-record for implementing, negotiating, and managing our Medical, Prescription, and Dental programs.
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, special education placements and services as per (Attachment #10).
9. 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.

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XV. Personnel

Mrs. Walling highlighted the resignation of Mrs. Spekhardt, and thanked her for her time in our district. She wished her well as she starts a family. Mrs. Schiano commented that she has always heard great things about her. She will be missed by the community. Mrs. Pupo was happy to see summer custodial positions filled.

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Personnel #1-7**

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro Seconded: Mrs. Schiano
 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 resignation of **Jill Spekhardt**, Kindergarten Teacher, effective July 1, 2022, and thank her for her years of service to the Mountainside School District. (Attachment #12)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of **Kristi Lange**, to the position of Special Education LLD Teacher at Beechwood School, at a salary of \$62,820, prorated, MA Step 7, effective April 19, 2022 through June 30, 2022. (Attachment #13)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to revise the appointment of **Kirsten Post**, to the position of 4th Grade Leave Replacement, at the corrected per diem rate of \$190, effective May 18, 2022, through June 21 2022. (**previously approved on 3/22/22 at \$185 per diem rate*)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **Dylan Capparelli** and **Luke Williams** as substitute custodians as needed for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year, and temporary custodial workers for summer employment as outlined below, upon successful criminal background check. (Attachment #14)

Name	Days	Rate	Approx. Total
Dylan Capparelli	8 Weeks (July-Aug)	\$16.85/hr.	\$5,000
Luke Williams	8 Weeks (July-Aug)	\$16.85/hr.	\$5,000

5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staffing for the 2022-2023 Summer Learning Academy from July 5, 2022 through July 28, 2022, Mondays through Thursdays, at rate of *\$43.29/hour, not to exceed 4 hours per day. Program is supported through ARP Federal Grant Funding:

*(*All appropriate changes will be made upon ratification of the agreement between the MEA and the BOE)*

Kelly Herscheit	Holly Ambrose	Michelle Jamnik
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Deborah Posner	Stephanie DeBaun	Teresa Banks
Michelle Cruz		

6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staffing of the 2022-2023 Extended School Year Program from July 5, 2022 through August 4, 2022, Mondays through Thursdays from 9:00-12:30, as detailed below:

2022 - 2023 ESY July 5th – August 4th, 2022

no school July 4th & no school on Fridays

Salary based on MEA staff contract

**All appropriate changes will be made upon ratification of the agreement between the MEA and the BOE*

ESY Special Education Teachers:

Name	Position	Salary/Hour
Kristi Lange	Special Education Teacher	* \$43.29/hour

7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Child Study Team Staffing effective June 22, 2022 to August 31, 2022.

Name	Assignment	Rate <i>*All appropriate changes will be made upon ratification of the agreement between the MEA and the BOE</i>	Not to Exceed
Caitlin McGarrity	Special Ed. Teachers (for meetings)	* \$43.29/hour	Per meeting

XVI. Policy

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

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 following policies/regulations for the first reading:

P 2622	Student Assessment	Revised/Mandated
R 2622	Student Assessment	New/Mandated
P & R 2431.4	Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries	Revised/Mandated

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R 8420.7	Lockdown Procedures	New/Mandated
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2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following policies/regulations for the second reading and adoption:

P 2415.05	Student Surveys, Analysis, Evaluations, Examinations, Testing or Treatment	Revised/Mandated
R 2460.30	Additional/Compensatory Special Education and Related Services	New/Mandated
P 9560	Administration of School Surveys	Revised/Mandated

XVII. Old Business - Mr. Hyman discussed proposed changes to nepotism policy 0142.1. Mrs. Walling will follow up with legal advice on if these changes are possible, and the Board can decide how to proceed.

XVIII. New Business - Dr. Guidici Pietro, PTO Liaison, reminded everyone that the PTO Spring Fundraiser will be on 5/18. Mrs. Pupo, Library Liaison, met on 4/18. She noted the new library director has resigned. The library is open with masks recommended.

XIX. Committee Reports - Mr. Venes mentioned the Negotiation Committee will be meeting tomorrow. Mr. Dillon commented that the Budget and Finance Committee met yesterday, reviewed the budget, noting it aligned with our district goals, and thanked Steve for his work on it.

XX. Public Participation - none

XXI. Executive Session

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

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 8:45 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 further action will be taken.

XXII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Dr. Guidici Pietro at 9:10 p.m., seconded by Mr. Venes to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 7 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Robinson
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary