

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
August 30, 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 6:34 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
Mr. James Ruban, Jr.
Mrs. Candice Schiano
Mr. Carmine Venes

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

III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

Moved: Mr. Hyman Seconded: Mrs. Pupo

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

The public meeting reconvened at 7:34 p.m.

V. Flag Salute

VI. Approval of Minutes

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

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 19, 2022
- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of July 19, 2022

VII. Correspondence - none

VIII. Public Participation - none at this time

IX. President's Report - none

X. Superintendent's Report - Mrs. Walling took a moment to recognize the sudden passing of Stephan Miedowicz, our Deerfield evening custodian who worked with us for 14 years. She and the board send their condolences to his wife and family. She went on to thank staff who worked over the summer (secretaries, custodians, technology dept.) for all their hard work in preparation to reopen schools. She presented a new banner commemorating the 2022 Boys' Basketball Team's winning season, and hopes to continue to add to these in the years to come. Mrs. Walling presented the new mandated Health and Family Life Curriculum. This comprehensive presentation and drafts of the curriculum are available to view on our website. Afterwards, the Board asked questions and expressed their concerns. Some board members complimented the detailed outlining of the mandated curriculum. Mrs. Walling responded.

XI. Public Participation - The public was invited to speak on the Health and Family Life topic after Mrs. Walling's presentation. There were several parents who spoke about their concerns about the new mandates. Several people voiced their concerns, questioned how opting out will work, and asked the board to consider their vote carefully. There was a question about other districts who voted no. Various potential legal ramifications were shared.

XII. Business Administrator's Report - Mr. Robinson said the district is ready for reopening. The buildings have been deep cleaned, safety measures installed. There were tree removals and other trees around on our property are being monitored. Mr. Hyman asked about a lighting project from last year that Mr. Ruban recalled an issue with the vendor. Mr. Robinson said he will look into it.

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XIII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report - Mr. Hyman's last meeting was on 8/11 at GL, and meetings going forward will be at GL, recordings will be online. The next regular meeting will be on 9/22, with an emergency meeting on 9/1. They approved an open campus for seniors, a new student representative, and viewed a health presentation for K-12, and added an additional bus route. The current driver shortages may impact sports. School cafeteria prices have increased significantly, 25-50%. The football team had a season kick off, debuting the new head coach. Dr. Guidici Pietro asked if Berkeley Heights approved the family life curriculum, to which Mr. Hyman responded that they did pass it.

XIV. Administration

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Administration #1-7, 9.**

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

Administration #8 - vote to table

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

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2022-2023 Professional Development Plan and Professional Development Plan Statement of Assurance. (Attachment #2)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Mentoring Plan and Mentoring Plan Statement of Assurance. (Attachment #3)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the School Safety and Security Plan.
4. Motion to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff members to serve on the district ScIP (School Improvement Panel)/Professional Development Committee for the 2022-2023 school year: Suzanne Jenks, Jessica Vierschilling, Michelle Cruz, Natalie Crisafulli, Kathy Goldbeck, Sue Goracy, Corrin Lavery.
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the use of the Charlotte Danielson 2013 Rating System for teacher and other certificated staff evaluations for the 2022-2023 school year.
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Student Handbooks for the 2022-2023 school year for Beechwood, Deerfield Grades 3-5 and Deerfield Grades 6-8. (Attachments 4, 5, 6)
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to appoint Jessica Vierschilling, Beechwood Principal, as the District Anti-Bullying Coordinator.

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8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following curricular documents for Mountainside Schools: (Attachment #7-9)

Subject Area	Grade Levels
Health and Family Life	Grades K-2 (Attachment #7) Grades 3-5 (Attachment #8) Grades 6-8 (Attachment #9)

9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools July 2022 safety and security drill reports. (Attachment #10)

XV. Budget and Finance

Mr. Dillon mentioned that the Budget and Finance Committee discussed items #4, 8 and #16, and have the full support of the committee. The activity fees have not increased in 5 years, so they have been increased given the rising costs of buses and referees.

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-16**

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 July 2022. (Attachment #11)
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated July 21, 2022, through August 31, 2022. (Attachment #12)
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of June 2022 and July 2022 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of June 2022 and July 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 June 2022 and July 2022:

the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of June 2022 and July 2022 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for June 2022 and July 2022 as submitted and certified (Attachment #13).

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following cafeteria price list for 2022-2023:

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Student lunch	\$3.50		Fresh or chilled fruit	\$1.00
Reduced lunch	Free		Vegetable side	\$1.00
Student entree' only	\$2.75		Yogurt	\$1.00
Extra entree' with lunch	\$2.00		Small side salad	\$2.50
Adult lunch	\$5.00		Fruit snacks	\$1.00
			Baked chips	\$1.25
Milk	\$.75		Rice Krispie treat	\$1.50
100% juice (4oz.)	\$.75		Pop-Tart	\$1.00
Bottled water 8oz./16oz.	\$1.00/1.50		Soft Pretzel	\$1.50
Sparkling fruit juice	\$1.50		Baked cookie (sm/lg)	\$.75/1.25
Capri Sun 100% juice	\$1.00		Ice cream (sm/lg)	\$1.25/1.50
			Yogurt Parfait	\$2.50

5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the list of Independent Contractors/Physicians/Agencies for the 22-23 school year, if needed. (Attachment #14)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, acceptance of Nonpublic School Transportation Aid in the amount of \$22,910.00.
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the acceptance of FY22 Extraordinary Aide in the amount of \$193,789.00.
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the agreement with Peggnet to provide technology support services for 10 weeks in the amount of \$35,000. (Attachment #15).
9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with MUJC, to provide professional development services to the Mountainside School District, for the 2022-23 school year to be funded with Title IV funds. Said agreement includes a 2-hour in-person workshop on 9/1/22 in the amount of \$3,675, (Attachment #16)
10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a contract with the YMCA of Westfield, New Jersey, to provide Before/After Care Program Services for the Mountainside School District, providing a revenue stream to the Mountainside School District in rental fees for fiscal year 2022-2023, in the amount of \$16,560, effective September 7, 2022, to June 21, 2023. (Attachment #17)

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11. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the agreement with Golden Arrow Transportation to provide transportation for fall sports, at a rate of \$550.00 per bus. (Attachment #18)
12. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the approval of an agreement with Tri-County Behavioral Care to provide School Clearance Assessments and/or Substance Evaluation & Treatment services, as needed, for the 2022-23 school year. (Attachment #19)
13. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the Watts Foundation donation in the amount of \$3,589.46 to be used for new shelving for the Deerfield School Library/Media Center. (Attachment #20)
14. 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 #21). 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.
15. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, special education placements and services as per (Attachment #22).
16. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2022-2023 fee amounts for student activities in accordance with Board Policy 2436, Activity Participation Fee Program:

Activity	Fee
Athletics	\$200 per student*
Clubs/Student Activities	\$45 per student/per activity

*If a child plays two or more sports, the cost is \$315 for the year.

*If two or more children in a family play a sport, the cost is \$165 per sport.

*If two or more children in a family play two or more sports, the cost is \$265 for each child for the year.

*If a child is approved for Free/Reduced School Meals, the above fees will be waived.

XVI. Personnel

Mr. Dillon mentioned that he was part of the interview process and is pleased with the choice of the new technology coordinator, and eager for him to start.

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Personnel #1-10**

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

New personnel employment appointments are contingent upon the required state and federal criminal history background checks (in accordance with N.J.S.A. CH 116, P.L. 1986) and completion of required employee paperwork)

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of the following new hires for the 2022-2023 school year (Attachment #23):

Name	Loc.	Position	Salary/Step	Start	End
Catherine Francisco	DF	Special Education Teacher	\$54,875 BA Step 1	9/1/22	6/30/23
Brittney Oliveira	DF	Elementary Education Teacher	\$57,949 MA Step 1	9/1/22	6/30/23
Vincent Stasio	DF	Middle School Science Teacher	\$63,559 BA Step 9	9/1/22	6/30/23
Christine Kieseewetter	DF	Paraprofessional (3 days/wk)	\$26.05/hr. Step 1	9/1/22	6/30/23
Christine Zagami	DF	Library/Media Asst.	\$15/hour (up to 10 hrs/wk)	9/1/22	6/30/23
Christine Lopez	BW/DF	LDT-C	\$86,656 MA+30 Step 16 (prorated)	10/31/22 Pending paperwork	6/30/23
Antonio Negron	DF	Custodian	\$42,973 (prorated) Step 1 Maint.	9/15/22 Pending paperwork	6/30/22

2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of the following leave replacement teachers for the 2022-2023 school year (Attachment #24):

Name	Loc.	Position	Salary/Step	Start	End
Gabriela Karch	BW	Elementary Education Teacher	\$54,875 BA Step 1	9/1/22	6/30/23
Madison Phillips	DF	Elementary Education Teacher	\$54,875 BA Step 1	9/1/22	6/30/23
Sarah Freer	DF	Elementary Education Teacher	\$57,949 MA Step 1 (prorated)	9/12/22	1/23/23
Kirsten Post	DF	Elementary Education Teacher	\$57,949 MA Step 1 (prorated)	9/1/22	1/3/23

3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following resignations (Attachment #25):

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Name	Position	Final Date of Employment
Andrea Legiadre	LDT-C	Effective 9/21/22
Laryssa DelGuercio	Special Education Teacher (DF)	Effective immediately
Gary Chan	Science Teacher (DF)	Effective immediately
Kelcie Sweetwood	Paraprofessional (DF)	Effective immediately
Carolee Lavey	Media Assistant (DF)	Effective immediately
Zachary Worswick	Physical Education Teacher (BW)	Effective October 21, 2022 unless the position is filled prior to this date
Heather Kronengold	Paraprofessional (DF)	Effective immediately

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the extension of unpaid family leave for **Jessica Botkin**, from October 10, 2022 through January 1, 2023. She anticipates returning to work on January 2, 2023. (Attachment #26)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the request for tuition reimbursement from **Desiree Ganz**, Special Education Teacher, for classes taken at Fairleigh Dickinson, for the 2022 Summer Session for Orton Gillingham, in the amount of \$165. (Attachment #27)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2022-2023 Substitute Teacher/Support Staff List (Attachment #28).
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2022-2023 School Year Stipend Positions, contingent upon student enrollment for those student activities subsidized in accordance with Board Policy 2436, Activity Participation Fee Program. (Attachment #29)
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of **J. Todd Erwin**, to the position of Technology Coordinator, at a salary of \$90,000, prorated, for the 2022-2023 school year, pending successful criminal background check. The anticipated start date is October 31, 2022. (Attachment # 22A)
9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of **Gregory Gormly**, to the position of Physical Education Teacher, at a salary of \$66,479, MA+30 Step 7, prorated, for the 2022-2023 school year, pending successful criminal background check. The anticipated start date is October 31, 2022. (Attachment # 22B)
10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff member's participation in a Behavior Intervention Team Planning meeting on August 30, 2022, and their compensation for 3 hours each, at \$44/hour.

Amanda Somers-Guerasio	Brittany Pinho	Ramona Kuznedelov
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XVII. Curriculum

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

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

Destination	Grade	Teacher in Charge	Estimated Cost
Camp Bernie	7	Mrs. Chiappetta	Camp: \$ 816 pd. by PTO \$1664 pd. by students Buses: \$1224 pd. by PTO

XVIII. Policy

Mr. Hyman asked if HIB cases are kept in a student's file permanently. Mrs. Walling confirmed that this is one of the changes to the policy. Records are not shared with colleges, but it's part of a student record as far as their action plan should there be multiple incidents.

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

Moved: Dr. Guidiciopietro Seconded: Mrs. Pupo
 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:

P 1511	Board of Education Website Accessibility	New/Mandated
P 2415	Every Student Succeeds Act	Revised/Mandated
P 5512	Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying	Revised/Mandated
P 5513 R 5513	Care of School Property	Revised/Mandated New/Mandated
P 5722	Student Journalism	New/Mandated

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

P 0142.1	Nepotism	Revised
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3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to abolish the following policies/regulations:

P 1648.13	School Employee Vaccination Requirements
P 2432	School Sponsored Publications

XIX. Old Business - none

XX. New Business - Dr. Guidici Pietro mentioned the upcoming PTO Ice Cream Social and Fall Festival are planned, and she and others are pleased to see these traditions returning.

XXI. Committee Reports - none

XXII. Public Participation - none

XXIII. Adjournment - Resolution (Attachment #1)

A motion was made by Dr. Guidici Pietro at 10:05 p.m., seconded by Mr. Venes to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 7 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Steven Robinson
Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary