

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
December 20, 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 6:32 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

Mrs. Janet Walling, Superintendent, and Mr. Steven Robinson, Interim Business Administrator were also present.

III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

Moved:	<u>Mr. Ruban</u>	Seconded:	<u>Dr. Guidiciopietro</u>
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 6:33 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: Dr. Guidici Pietro
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: Mr. Venes 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 November 15, 2022
- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of November 15, 2022

VII. Correspondence - none

VIII. Public Participation - none

IX. President's Report - none

X. Superintendent's Report - Mrs. Walling recognized Mr. Wayne DeVico's retirement after 31 years as Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds, Mr. James Ruban, Jr.'s stepping down as Board President after 12 years, and our Teachers, Ed. Services Professionals, and Support Staff of the Year winners. She presented each of them with gifts and awards after her presentation. She provided district updates, including the installation of the DF digital sign. Each Board member commended all of the evening's honorees, and addressed Mr. Ruban and Mr. DeVico's contributions to our District over the years. Mr. Ruban followed with an eloquent speech addressing his time on the Board of Education. He commented on each of the Board members' and Administrators' strengths and encouraged everyone going forward.

XI. Business Administrator's Report -none

XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report -Mr. Hyman reported from the 11/17 meeting that the marching band won numerous awards; GL Robotics did a demo after their fall competition; Feedback on Thinking Classroom was discussed; Hilltop Players' fall performance was great. From the 12/15 meeting, Mr. Hyman reported on the successful Highlander Honors Night; Hilltop Players Spring play was announced; there were updates on various winter sports, winter concert, culture week and a new a cappella group. Survey results on the 23/24 school calendar were shared; College JumpStart Program is going well; it was the Board President's last meeting

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after 1 year; NJGPA presentation; BH purchased a new bus. Upcoming Reorganization meeting will be on Jan. 5th, and the regular meeting on Jan. 12th.

XIII. Administration

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Administration #1-4**

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

1. **WHEREAS**, James Ruban, Jr. is a resident of Mountainside, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, James has been a member of the Mountainside Board of Education dedicating himself to providing for the educational needs of the students in the Mountainside School District; and

WHEREAS, James has served on the Mountainside Board of Education with distinction from April 2010 through December 2022, serving eleven and a half of those years as the Board President. He has also served on the Budget and Finance, Buildings and Grounds, and Community Outreach Committees. He was instrumental in the oversight of district improvements through referendums to upgrade Mountainside Schools. His leadership leaves a legacy supporting fiscal responsibility, open discourse, and service to the Mountainside community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mountainside Board of Education hereby recognizes James Ruban, Jr. for his contributions to the students of Mountainside Public Schools and thank him for his service to the community of Mountainside; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mountainside Board of Education wishes James continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board affirms the determination made by the Superintendent regarding the HIB Investigation(s) reported by the Superintendent at the Board’s November 15, 2022 Meeting, which encompasses all HIB findings from September 21, 2022 through November 9, 2022.
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Plan, pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan Act. (Attachment #2)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools November 2022 safety and security drill reports. (Attachment #3)

XIV. Budget and Finance

Mr. Dillon commented on #6, that the Budget/Finance Committee reviewed and agreed to the new phone system that will save \$270/mo. He also commented on #4, that although we agree to this payment, this is an area to keep an eye on for the long term impact on our budget.

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The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-7**

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

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the months of October and November 2022. (Attachment #4)
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated November 17, 2022, through December 21, 2022. (Attachment #5)
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of October and November 2022 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the months of October and November 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Interim 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 October and November 2022:

RESOLVED THAT, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the months of October and November 2022 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for October and November 2022 as submitted and certified. (Attachment #6)

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Berkeley Heights Governor Livingston High School Resource Room Tuition Agreement Contract for the 2022-2023 school year in the amount of \$213,510.00. (Attachment #7).
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addendum to the list of Independent Contractors/Physicians/Agencies for the 22-23 school year, as needed. (Attachment #8)
6. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Mountainside Board of Education approve the agreement with Xtel Communications for a new district-wide phone system with a 60-month lease in the amount of \$1,069.33/month, with a one time charge of \$1,657.00. Pricing is based on the ESCNJ Bid #19/20-30.
7. 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 #9). 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.

XV. Personnel

Mr. Hyman commented on the retirement of Mrs. Kinney, and the loss it will be for our school.

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The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Personnel #1-11**

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro Seconded: Mrs. Pupo
 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, to recognize the following staff members for their dedication to the students, families, and staff of the Mountainside School District. Their support, professionalism, and commitment is recognized and appreciated on a daily basis:

Beechwood School	
Paige Primmer , Kindergarten	Teacher of the Year
Ramona Kuznedelov , Guidance	Educational Services Professional of the Year
Tom McGowan , Custodian	Support Staff of the Year
Deerfield School	
Ellie Barkin-Baron , STEAM	Teacher of the Year
Eileen D'Antonio , Social Worker	Educational Services Professional of the Year
JoAnne DiPaola , Aide	Support Staff of the Year

2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of **Nancy Kinney**, Deerfield Teacher, effective July 1, 2023, and thank her for her 22 years service to the Mountainside School District. (Attachment #10)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Maternity Disability Leave for **Victoria Tiscia**, Art Teacher, effective April 11, 2023, until May 12, 2023. She will be permitted to utilize any accumulated sick days. It is also recommended that Ms. Tiscia be granted unpaid Family Leave from May 15, 2023, until October 13, 2023 in accordance with FMLA and NJFLA. Ms. Tiscia anticipates returning to work on October 16, 2023. (Attachment #11)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Maternity Disability Leave for **Amanda Roy**, 1st Grade Teacher, effective March 8, 2023, until April 21, 2023. She will be permitted to utilize any accumulated sick days. It is also recommended that Ms. Roy be granted unpaid Family Leave from April 24, 2023, until October 3, 2023 in accordance with FMLA and NJFLA. Ms. Roy is requesting additional unpaid leave from October 4, 2023 through December 6, 2023. She anticipates returning to work on December 7, 2023. (Attachment #12)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an extended unpaid family leave for **Rebecca Tafaro** from January 30, 2023 through June 30, 2023. She anticipates returning to work on September 1, 2023. (Attachment #13)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Michelle Cruz**, to provide supplemental instruction for student #8329069279, not to exceed 11.5 hours, at a rate of \$44/hour.

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7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the extended appointment of **Nicole Tyburski**, to the position of paraprofessional, Step 1, at a rate of \$26.05/hour, effective December 18, 2022 through June 30, 2023.
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to amend Personnel item #12 from the June 28, 2022 agenda, for curriculum writing, to reflect a total of 43 hours for **Barbi Higinbotham**, at a rate of \$44/hour. *(previously approved for 20 hours)*
9. 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.

Position	Name	Salary
Jr. FM Math Club - Gr. 4 & 5 (ARP funded)	Axl Hirsh	\$36/session <i>NTE 30 sessions</i>
Gifted and Talented- Gr. 6-8 (before/after school programming)	Sarah Freer Lori Topel Natalie Crisafulli	\$36/session <i>NTE 30 sessions each</i>
Vocabulary Support Club- Gr. 3-5 (ARP funded)	Michelle Cruz	\$36/session <i>NTE 30 sessions</i>
Literary Club - Gr. 7 - Gr. 6 (ARP funded)	Sharon Scanlan Adrienne Ridley	\$36/session <i>NTE 30 sessions</i>

10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of the following to the 2022-2023 Substitute Teacher List, pending paperwork and successful criminal background check. (Attachment #14)

Name	Certification	Rate
Irene Rigos	Sub cert pending w/ degree	\$115/day

11. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **Paola Conte** to assist with office duties, as needed, at a rate of \$15/hour during the 2022/2023 school year.

XVI. Curriculum

The following motion was approved by roll call vote: **Curriculum #1-2**

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

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1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following curricular documents for Mountainside Schools:

Subject	Grades
Social Studies	K-8

2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following class trips:

Destination	Grade	Teacher in Charge	Estimated Cost
Mayo Performing Arts Center	4	Laurendi	Tickets- \$704 - pd by PTO Bus - \$1100 - pd by PTO
Governor Livingston High School	8	Pinho	Bus - \$880 - pd by BOE
Theater at RVCC	6	Donato/Ridley	Tickets- \$704 - pd by PTO Bus- \$880- pd by PTO
Trailside Science Center	5	Kinney	Tickets-\$640- pd by PTO Bus-\$1100- pd by PTO
Union County Teen Arts	6-8	Tiscia	Bus- \$600 pd by BOE
Somerset Patriots	5	Kinney	Paid by D.A.R.E.

XVII. Policy

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

Moved: Mr. Venes Seconded: Mr. Hyman
 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 for the second reading and adoption:

Bylaw 0132	Executive Authority	Revised
P 3216	Dress and Grooming	Revised
P 4216	Dress and Grooming	New

XVIII. Old Business - Mr. Hyman was pleased about the installation of the Deerfield digital sign.

- XIX. New Business** - Mr. Dillon commented on the amazing opportunity our Select Choir had to perform again at Radio City, and he thanked the Board and Administration for supporting the Arts, along with Mr. Rosenblum and Mr. Wise. Mrs. Pupo agreed.

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XX. Committee Reports - none

XXI. Public Participation - A member of the community congratulated and thanked Mr. Ruban and Mr. DeVico for the amazing commitment to the Mountainside School Community over their many years.

XXII. Adjournment - Resolution (Attachment #1)

A motion was made by Mr. Ruban at 8:42 p.m., seconded by Dr. Guidicipietro 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