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. Vivian Pupo, at 6:32 p.m.

II. Roll Call

At roll call, the following members were present:

Mr. Bill Dillon

Mr. Michael Goodwin

Dr. Dana Guidicipietro

Mr. Jordan Hyman

Mrs. Vivian Pupo

Mrs. Candice Schiano - arrived after roll call at 7:15 pm

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: Mr. Venes Seconded: Mr. Hyman

RC: Dillon - yes Goodwin - yes Guidicipietro - yes Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes Schiano - absent 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 6:33 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. Guidicipietro</u> Seconded: <u>Mr. Venes</u>

RC: Dillon - yes Goodwin - yes Guidicipietro - yes Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes Schiano - yes Venes -yes

The public meeting reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

V. Flag Salute

VI. Approval of Minutes

Moved: Mr. Hyman Seconded: Dr. Guidicipietro

RC: Dillon - yes Guidicipietro - yes

Hyman - yes-12/27 abstained Pupo - yes Schiano - yes Venes -yes

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 20, 2022
- ♦ Minutes of the Executive Session of December 20, 2022
- ♦ Minutes of the Special Meeting of December 27, 2022
- ♦ Minutes of the Executive Session Special Meeting of December 27, 2022
- ♦ Minutes of the Reorganization Meeting of January 3, 2023
- VII. <u>Correspondence</u> none
- VIII. Public Participation none
 - IX. <u>President's Report</u> none
 - X. <u>Superintendent's Report</u> -Mrs. Walling recognized the Board of Education members, with January declared School Board Recognition Month, and thanked the members for their commitment to the District. She then overviewed information on her Start Strong Data Presentation with data from Fall 2022. Mrs. Walling noted our Boys' and Girls' basketball teams seasons have been exciting, with the Boy's team being undefeated. Students and faculty enjoyed the first-ever Pep Rally at Deerfield. The Pep Band and Chorus performed and grade levels had fun competitions. Spirit Night was amazing and raised over \$3,000. The Music Man play is coming soon in March. Our February meeting will recognize high scoring math students who participated in a nationwide online math competition.
 - **XI.** <u>Business Administrator's Report</u> Mr. Robinson mentioned he has begun planning next year's budget.
- XII. <u>Berkeley Heights Liaison Report</u> Mr. Hyman reported from the Jan. 6th Reorganization meeting when 3 new board members were sworn in. The Jan. 19th meeting provided various sports updates, Robotics placed 3rd out of 19 in competition, Math League competed. There is a new Drum Circle performing in early spring, Eastern European Culture Club collected for

Ukraine; Winter formal took place; Girls' Volleyball honored for making it to state finals; Next meetings will be on 2/2 for board training and 2/9 for a regular meeting.

XIII. Administration

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

Moved: <u>Dr. Guidicipietro</u> Seconded: <u>Mr. Venes</u>

RC: Dillon - yes Goodwin - yes Guidicipietro - yes Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes Schiano - yes Venes -yes

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 2023 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 approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2023-2024 School Year Calendar. (Attachment #2)

- 3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Statement of Assurance Regarding the Use of Paraprofessional Staff 2022-2023 School Year (Attachment #3)
- 4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools December 2022 safety and security drill reports. (Attachment #4)

XIV. Budget and Finance

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

Moved: Mr. Hyman Seconded: Mrs. Schiano

RC: Dillon - yes Goodwin - yes Guidicipietro - yes Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes Schiano - yes Venes -yes

- 1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the months of December 2022. (Attachment #5)
- 2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated December 22, 2022, through January 31, 2023. (Attachment #6)
- 3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of December 2022 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the months of December 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 December 2022:

RESOLVED THAT, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the months of December 2022 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for December 2022 as submitted and certified. (Attachment #7)

4. **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:

Account	Bank	Signatories
Operating	Valley Bank	Board President/Business Administrator
Payroll	Valley Bank Board President/Business Administr	
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

- 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 2023-2024 school year: \$4,700 for 5 half day sessions.
- 6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the building use request with the Actor's Camp for building use at Deerfield School from July 3rd July 28th based on Policy 7510, priority 5, and a payment schedule totaling \$7,600, excluding additional overtime costs that will be incurred.
- 7. 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 #8). 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. <u>Personnel</u>

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Personnel #1-12**

Moved: <u>Dr. Guidicipietro</u> Seconded: <u>Mr. Goodwin</u>

RC: Dillon - yes Goodwin - yes Guidicipietro - yes Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes Schiano - yes Venes -yes

- 1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of **Jayne Hartnett**, Deerfield Teacher, effective July 1, 2023, and thank her for her 22 years service to the Mountainside School District. (Attachment #9)
- 2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of **Kim Hain**, Beechwood Teacher, effective July 1, 2023, and thank her for her 26 years service to the Mountainside School District. (Attachment #10)
- 3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Maternity Disability Leave for **Eileen D'Antonio**, School Social Worker, effective April 11, 2023, until May 22, 2023. She will be permitted to utilize any accumulated sick days. It is also recommended that Ms. D'Antonio be

granted unpaid Family Leave from May 23, 2023, until October 27, 2023 in accordance with FMLA and NJFLA. She anticipates returning to work on October 30, 2023. (Attachment #11)

- 4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Maternity Disability Leave for **Colleen Laurendi**, 4th Grade Teacher, effective May 1, 2023, until May 26, 2023. She will be permitted to utilize any accumulated sick days but take May 26th as an unpaid day. It is also recommended that Ms. Laurendi be granted unpaid Family Leave from May 29, 2023, until November 1, 2023 in accordance with FMLA and NJFLA. She anticipates returning to work on November 2, 2023. (Attachment #12)
- 5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Maternity Disability Leave for **Stephanie DeBaun**, Kindergarten Teacher, effective April 14, 2023, until June 8, 2023. She will be permitted to utilize any accumulated sick days. It is also recommended that Ms. DeBaun be granted unpaid Family Leave from June 9, 2023, until November 14, 2023 in accordance with FMLA and NJFLA. She anticipates returning to work on November 15, 2023. (Attachment #13)
- 6. 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
Zahra Kermalli	Sub Cert w/ degree	\$115/day
Stephanie Arroyo-Medina	Sub Cert w/ degree	\$115/day
Jennifer Pires	Sub Cert w/ degree	\$115/day
Paola Conte	Sub Cert w/ degree	\$115/day

- 7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the notification to take classes from **Cory Berger**, 5th grade Teacher, for classes taken at American College for Education, for the 2023 Spring Session for twelve (12) graduate credits in the amount of \$2,820. (Attachment #15)
- 8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff for 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 #16) Note *amended positions below:

Name	Position	Rate	Previously Approved	*Amended or New
Zachary Worswick	Boys' Baseball Coach	\$3,644 (3+ yr. rate)	8/30/22	*Resigned

Dan Kessler	Boys' Baseball Coach	\$3,644 (3+ yr. rate)	8/30/22 as Asst. Boys' Baseball Coach	*Rescind Asst. Coach position
Deb Posner	Asst. Boys' Baseball Coach	\$2,276 (1-2 yr. rate)	n/a	New
Victoria Tiscia	Teen Arts Coordinator	50% of 3+ yr. rate = \$291.50	8/30/22	*Revise from full to split
Sarah Onore	Teen Arts Coordinator	50% of 1-2 yr. rate = \$265	n/a	New
 Sonia Branco Corrin Lavery Sarah Onore Axl Hirsch Jessica Goldstein Caitlin McGarrity 	8th Gr. trip overnight chaperones	1. \$278 (3+ yr.) 2. \$278 (3+ yr.) 3. \$278 (3+ yr.) 4. \$265 (1-2 yr.) 5. \$265 (1-2 yr.) 6. \$265 (1-2 yr.)	n/a	New

- 9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Julie Lima** and **Paige Primmer** for in-District training preparation for Effective Phonics Instruction, to be paid using ARP grant funds, in the amount of \$567.30 each.
- 10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to transfer **Phong (Peter) Pham**, Night Custodian, to Deerfield School, effective January 9, 2023.
- 11. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of **Gerard Carfagno**, Custodian, effective immediately as of January 10, 2023.
- 12. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **Edwin Gonzalez**, as a substitute custodian, at a rate of \$19.12/hr., not to exceed 25 hours per week, pending paperwork and successful criminal background check. (Attachment #17)

XVI. Curriculum

Moved: <u>Dr. Guidicipietro</u> Seconded: <u>Mr. Hyman</u>

RC: Dillon - yes Goodwin - yes Guidicipietro - yes Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes Schiano - yes Venes -yes

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

Destination	Grade	Teacher in Charge	Estimated Cost
Hillside Food Pantry	Gr. 6-8 Student Council	Ms. McGarrity & Ms. Keegan	\$440 - paid by Student Council
Washington DC	Gr. 8	Mr. Young	\$ 9,000 - paid by BOE

	\$ 2,704 - paid by PTO \$ 28,400 - paid by students \$ 5,500 - paid by yearbook \$ 2,000 - paid by school photos Total: \$47,604
	Total: \$47,604

XVII. Policy

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

Moved: Mr. Venes Seconded: Mr. Hyman

RC: Dillon - yes Goodwin - yes Guidicipietro - yes Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes Schiano - yes Venes -yes

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

P 2423	Bilingual and ESL Education	Mandated/Revised
P 8140	Student Enrollments	Mandated/Revised
P 8330	Student Records	Mandated/Revised

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

1648.11	The Road Forward COVID-19 - Health and Safety	Mandated/Abolished
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- **XVIII.** Old Business Mr. Hyman was happy with the Deerfield digital sign. Mrs. Walling hopes to eventually upgrade the Beechwood sign as well in the future.
 - XIX. New Business Dr. Guidicipietro reminded everyone of the PTO Spring Fling Fundraiser on 3/23, it's an 80's theme. Please support the PTO with all proceeds coming back to our schools and students. Mrs. Pupo reported that the library has 2 new trustee members, and the library will be hosting a day of events on 2/4 from 1-4. Mr. Hyman asked if there might be a co-presentation with Dr. Varley from Berkeley Heights, on our coordinated curriculum. Mrs. Walling will look into it. Mr. Hyman continued the conversation about full-day PEAK, and the possibility of a demographic study for future planning. Mr. Robinson supported that idea for Strategic Planning purposes, and Mrs. Walling noted it has not been done in at least 5 years. Mr. Dillon agreed based on limited space at Beechwood School, and future budgeting it was a good idea to gather data. Mr. Venes asked about adding lights in the Deerfield parking lot, Mr. Dillon added the tennis court lights have been out of order for some time, perhaps both areas could be addressed, in conjunction with the Recreation Department. Mr. Robinson will look into this.
 - **XX.** <u>Committee Reports</u> Mr. Dillon shared the Finance/Building & Grounds committee information earlier. They welcomed Mr. Goodwin to the committee at a recent meeting.

XXI. <u>Public Participation</u> - none

XXII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Dr. Guidicipietro at 8:37 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Schiano to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 7 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Robinson Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary