

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
January 31, 2023**

**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:	<u>Mr. Venes</u>	Seconded:	<u>Mr. Hyman</u>		
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

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
January 31, 2023**

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: Dr. Guidici Pietro                      Seconded: Mr. Venes  
RC:            Dillon - yes                      Goodwin - yes                      Guidici Pietro - 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. Guidici Pietro  
RC:    Dillon - yes                              Goodwin - yes                      Guidici Pietro - 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. Correspondence - none**

**VIII. Public Participation - none**

**IX. President's Report - none**

**X. Superintendent's Report** -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. Business Administrator's Report** - Mr. Robinson mentioned he has begun planning next year's budget.

**XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report** - 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

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
January 31, 2023**

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. Guidici Pietro</u>	Seconded:	<u>Mr. Venes</u>		
RC:	Dillon - yes	Goodwin - yes	Guidici Pietro - 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)





**Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
January 31, 2023**

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 26<sup>th</sup> 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

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
January 31, 2023**

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
1. Sonia Branco 2. Corrin Lavery 3. Sarah Onore 4. Axl Hirsch 5. Jessica Goldstein 6. 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: Dr. Guidici Pietro      Seconded: Mr. Hyman  
 RC:      Dillon - yes      Goodwin - yes      Guidici Pietro - 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	<b>Ms. McGarrity &amp; Ms. Keegan</b>	\$440 - paid by Student Council
Washington DC	Gr. 8	<b>Mr. Young</b>	\$ 9,000 - paid by BOE





**Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
January 31, 2023**

**XXI. Public Participation** - none

**XXII. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Dr. Guidici Pietro 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