

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
February 21, 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 6:31 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
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>Dr. Guidicipietro</u>		
RC:	Dillon - yes	Goodwin - yes	Guidicipietro - yes	Hyman - yes	
	Pupo - 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>Mr. Venes</u>		
RC:	Dillon - yes	Goodwin - yes	Guidici Pietro - yes	Hyman - yes	
	Pupo - yes	Schiano - yes	Venes -yes		

The public meeting reconvened at 7:36 p.m.

V. Flag Salute

VI. Approval of Minutes

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

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 31, 2023
- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of January 31, 2023

VII. Correspondence - Staff member letter dated 2/14/23

VIII. Public Participation - none

IX. President's Report - none

X. Superintendent's Report - Mrs. Walling reported on the Student Safety Data System from 9/1-12/31/22, which covers HIB reports, training, and other SEL programming for staff, students, and the BOE. She reported that after approvals tonight our custodial staff will be back to a complete crew, including an available substitute. Mrs. Walling noted upcoming events, like Book Fairs, Music Man School Play in March, and noted recent Cops vs. 8th Gr. basketball game and a Coffee & Conversation with herself and school principals. It focused on Gifted & Talented programming and was well attended by about 35 people. On March 7th, Mrs. Rouleau and Mrs. Bray (BCBA) will host an event for families on coping and resilience. Finally, along with Mrs. Crisafulli, Mr. Kessler, and Ms. Phillips, she recognized the State Patriot's Pen Essay winner, 2 top students from Noetic Learning Math Contest, and Boys' Basketball Team champions for their outstanding achievements.

XI. Business Administrator's Report - Mr. Robinson mentioned he met with the Budget & Finance Committee on 2/16, and the preliminary budget has been prepared. State aid #s will be out by 3/2, 48 hours after the Governor's address. His next meeting will be the week of 3/6, and he will be prepared to present and adopt the tentative budget at the March board meeting. Mr. Robinson recommends going forward with the Demographic Study as discussed at the last meeting. He received quotes from 2 prominent companies, and is confident proceeding with one for \$1,500. He explained they look at trends in births, home sales, past enrollment #s to help predict upcoming

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student numbers. Results typically are available after 60 days, with the possibility of the company presenting the results for an additional fee. He will look into this further.

XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report - Mr. Hyman reported from the 2/9 meeting they reviewed a mid-year report on 4 district goals. Budget & Finance met and a preliminary budget will be presented on 3/13, with the final budget on 4/27. Their BA, Ms. Kot, mentioned lower Mtsd. enrollment numbers as a factor in the budget. They provided several updates on various clubs and winter sports. Mr. Venes asked if there was any discussion about later high school start times as debated across the state. Mr. Hyman said it was not a topic brought up.

XIII. Administration

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Administration #1-5**

Moved:	<u>Mr. Hyman</u>	Seconded:	<u>Mr. Goodwin</u>		
RC:	Dillon - yes	Goodwin - yes	Guidiciopietro - yes	Hyman - yes	
	Pupo - yes	Schiano - yes	Venes -yes		

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Investigative Report(s) for the period of February 1, 2023 through February 21, 2022, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1 et seq. 2.
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Student Safety Data System (SSDS) Report, from September 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022, as reported to the NJ Department of Education. (Attachment #2)
3. **WHEREAS**, N.J.A.C. 6A: 23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district’s participation in the Special Education Medicare Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2023-2024 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Mountainside Board of Education, desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that the state projects having four Medicaid eligible classified students and is therefore not required to participate in SEMI.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountainside Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent to apply for the waiver with the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Union following submission of an appropriate waiver of the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3 for the 2023-2024 school year.

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following dates and times for the Extended School Year (ESY) Program for Summer 2023:

Dates: (Mon-Thurs) - July 5th - August 8th
Times: 9:00 - 12:30

5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools January 2023 safety and security drill reports. (Attachment #3)

XIV. Budget and Finance

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The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-6**

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

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the months of January 2023. (Attachment #4)
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated February 1, 2023, through February 22, 2023. (Attachment #5)
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of January 2023 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the months of January 2023; 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 January 2023:

RESOLVED THAT, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the months of January 2023 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for January 2023 as submitted and certified. (Attachment #6)

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Intern Affiliation Agreement with Kean University, for placement opportunities for Clinical Internships with University students, effective February 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025. (Attachment #7)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, special education placements and services as per (Attachment #8)
6. 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 #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.

XV. Personnel

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Personnel #1-9**

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

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1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of **Todd Erwin**, Technology Coordinator, effective April 15, 2023. His last day of work will be April 14, 2023. (Attachment #10)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Maternity Disability Leave for **Courtney Yasinski**, Kindergarten Teacher, effective June 5, 2023, until June 21, 2023. She will be permitted to utilize any accumulated sick days. It is also recommended that Ms. Yasinski be granted unpaid Family Leave from September 5, 2023, until November 27, 2023 in accordance with FMLA and NJFLA. She also requests extended unpaid leave from November 28, 2023 through June 30, 2024 and anticipates returning to work at the beginning of the 24/25 school year. (Attachment #11)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **Stefaine Mathis**, Custodian, at the annual salary of \$46,973, Step 6 MA, prorated, effective February 22, 2023, pending successful criminal background check. (Attachment #12)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following temporary custodial workers for summer employment as outlined below, upon successful criminal background check and paperwork. (Attachment #13)

Name	Days	Rate	Approx. Total
Cole Williams	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 addition of the following to the 2022-2023 **Substitute Teacher List** pending paperwork and successful criminal background check. (Attachment #14)

Name	Certification	Rate
Claire Hannan	Sub cert pending	\$105/day

6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the placement of Music Education student teacher, **Scott Jonach**, to complete Spring 2023 coursework hours for Kean University, with Mr. Wise in Deerfield School.
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the notification to take classes from **Desiree Baroody (Ganz)**, Special Education Teacher, for classes taken at Fairleigh Dickinson, for the 2023 Winter Session for Orton Gillingham/IMSLEC courses, in the amount of \$150. (Attachment #15)
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to appoint **Nicole Tyburski**, to the position of 1st Grade long term substitute, at the per diem rate of \$185, beginning March 3, 2023 through June 21, 2023.

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9. 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.

Staff Member	Position	Rate
Greg Gormly	Recreation Club After School Supervisor	\$36/session NTE 30 sessions
Laurie Naftulin Shea Cody	Jr. Math Club (Gr. 1-2) (ARP Funded)	\$36/session NTE 30 sessions

XVI. Curriculum

Moved: Mr. Hyman Seconded: Mrs. Schiano
 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
Hetfield House	5	Mrs. Kinney	Free
Brookhollows Barnyard	K	Mrs. Banks	\$ 736 pd by PTO (admission) \$ 160 pd by chaperones \$ 1,400 pd by PTO (buses) \$ 85 student activity acct. (buses)
Turtle Back Zoo	1	Mrs. Lauterbach	\$ 790 pd by PTO (admission) \$ 160 pd by chaperones \$ 962 pd by PTO (buses) \$ 138 student activity acct. (buses)

XVII. Policy

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

Moved: Mr. Venes Seconded: Mr. Goodwin
 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 policies/regulations for the second reading and adoption:

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

XVIII. Old Business - Mr. Hyman asked if there were any updates about a digital sign for BW. Mrs. Walling said that it was on a Watts Foundation Wish List, among other things, and that she was meeting with them soon.

XIX. New Business - Dr. Guidici Pietro reminded everyone about the PTO annual Spring Fundraiser on 3/23. Mr. Hyman asked about a co-presentation with BH on curriculum. Mrs. Walling is planning on presenting this at our 4/18 board meeting with Mrs. Crisafulli and Mrs. Cruz, and staff from Berkeley Heights, then there will be a presentation at the BH BOE meeting on 4/27. Mr. Dillon opened the discussion on our 4 unused snow days and adjusting our calendar. After a detailed discussion, the board added and approved a motion to revise the calendar to give back 2 snow days now, and will address the remaining days at the March meeting. 5/26 and 5/30 will be given back as days off.

The following walk-on motion was approved by roll call vote: **New Business #1**

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro Seconded: Mrs. Schiano
 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, to amend the 2022-2023 school year calendar, to give back 2 of 4 unused snow days on May 26 and 30th.

XX. Committee Reports - Mr. Dillon reported that the Budget & Finance/Buildings & Grounds committee met on 2/16. They reviewed and debated various line items in the budget. They will follow up and take a closer look at transportation, Spec. Ed., GL enrollment. The board can reach out to him with any comments to provide feedback to Mr. Robinson. They also discussed cleaning up the Field Use Agreement and agreements/policies to make sure it's updated with the most current language.

XXI. Public Participation - none

XXII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Dr. Guidici Pietro at 8:40 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