

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
March 14, 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 Guidiciopietro
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>Dr. Guidiciopietro</u>	Seconded:	<u>Mr. Hyman</u>	
RC:	Dillon - yes	Goodwin - yes	Guidiciopietro - 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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requirement to vote on this budget. He was amazed for the first time ever to say the tax impact is -(\$4) per household. He took questions from the Board. There was significant discussion about high school student numbers and the tuition impact.

XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report - Mr. Hyman reported from the 3/13 meeting where the preliminary budget was presented. Ms. Kot described the "fiscal cliff" in BH, with factors like teacher's contract, OOD placements, and rising transportation costs affecting the \$1.6 million dollar gap. They plan on restructuring the administrative team and \$150K cuts in staff, office staff, and athletics. He provided winter sports and Robotics updates. Juniors are completing state testing, and Hilltop Players will be performing next week.

XIII. Administration

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

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

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board affirms the determination made by the Superintendent regarding the HIB Investigation(s) reported by the Superintendent at the Board's February 21, 2023 Meeting, which encompasses all HIB findings from February 1, 2023 through February 21, 2023.
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools February 2023 safety and security drill reports. (Attachment #2)

XIV. Budget and Finance

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

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

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated February 23, 2023, through March 15, 2023 (Attachment #3).
2. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the tentative budget be approved for the 2023-2024 school year and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUES	DEBT SERVICE	TOTAL
2023-24 Total Expenditures	\$20,494,501	\$158,954	\$1,282,379	\$21,935,834
Less: Anticipated Revenues	\$2,501,208	\$158,954	\$447,678	\$3,107,840

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Taxes to Be Raised	\$17,993,293	\$0	\$834,701	\$18,827,994
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And to advertise said tentative budget in the Westfield Leader in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in the final budget an appropriation of surplus in the amount of \$408,404.

Travel and Related Expenses Reimbursement

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that included in this budget, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, the maximum travel expenditure for the 2023-2024 school year amount shall be set at \$26,000. The maximum travel expenditure for the 2022-2023 school year is \$22,000, of which \$17,666 has been spent and \$855 is encumbered as of March 7, 2023.

WHEREAS, The Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district;

AND, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board;

AND, a board of education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$150 per staff member or district board of education member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30);

AND, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C.6A:23A Subchapter 7 but deemed by the board of education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out-of-District Travel and Reimbursement Forms;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out-of-District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT RESOLVED that included in the general fund appropriations, budget line 620 is a withdrawal from Capital Reserve – Other Capital Projects in the amount of \$144,309.

BE IT RESOLVED that the general fund appropriations include a \$200,000 withdrawal from the Tuition Reserve Account which were deposited into the account in SY 2021-2022 and are now required to be withdrawn to pay tuition obligations in SY 2023-2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held at the Beechwood School, Mountainside, New Jersey, on April 18, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2023-2024 school year.

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3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the agreement with Golden Arrow Bus Company to provide transportation for spring sports, at a rate of \$550.00 per bus for the first 3 hours, with additional fees of \$195/hour for overtime. (Attachment #4)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addendum to the agreement with Tri-County Behavioral Care, for 3 day/week services, beginning March 20, 2023 through June 21, 2023. The increased costs will be paid through ARP Grant funding. (Attachment #5)

This was previously approved on July 19, 2022 for 2 days/week.

5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, special education placements and services as per (Attachment #6)
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 #7). 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 #1-16**

Moved: Mr. Hyman

Seconded: Dr. Guidici Pietro

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 retirement of **Julie Goerlich**, Special Services Secretary, effective July 1, 2023, and thank her for an incredible nearly 32 years of dedication to the Mountainside School District. (Attachment #8)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of **Patricia Bruce**, Teacher, effective July 1, 2023, and thank her for her 22 years of dedication to the Mountainside School District. (Attachment #8A)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of **Kirsten Post**, to the position of Grade 3-8 Art Leave Replacement, at the salary of \$57,949, Step 1 MA, prorated, effective March 29, 2023, through June 21 2023.
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of **April Lachica-Campos** to the position of Kindergarten Leave Replacement, at the salary of \$54,875, Step 1 BA, prorated, effective March 15, 2023, through June 21, 2023. (Attachment #9)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of **Bruce Litinger Special Education Consultant, LLC**, to the position of School Social Worker Leave Replacement, at a rate of \$65/hour, effective April 11, 2023 through October 31, 2023. (Attachment #10)

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6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the request from **Kristin Eckert**, Kindergarten Teacher, to extend her unpaid family leave from September 1, 2023 to January 1, 2024. She anticipates returning to work on January 2, 2024. (Attachment #11)
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to reimburse **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 #12)
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to appoint **Catherine Hart**, to the position of paraprofessional, at Step 1, \$26.05/hour, beginning March 15, 2023 through June 21, 2023.
9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to appoint **Fallon Heron**, to the position of part-time lunch aide, at the rate of \$15/hour, start date pending completed paperwork and successful background check.
10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of the following to the Substitute Teacher List for 2022-2023 school year, pending paperwork and successful criminal background check. (Attachment #13)

Name	Certification	Rate/day
Hailey Gutowski	Teacher Cert.	\$125
Murial Maloney	Teacher Cert.	\$125
Anthony DiVito	Sub Cert w/ degree	\$115
Lauren McGovern-Worgan	Sub Cert w/ degree	\$115

11. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a medical leave of absence for **Employee #69142933**, effective March 20, 2023 through April 13, 2023.
12. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **Rebecca Ladenheim** to complete 35 clinical training hours with Lisa Bruno, as part of her requirements to earn her BSN degree.
13. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Child Study Team Staffing effective June 22, 2023 to August 31, 2023.

Name	Assignment	Rate	Not to Exceed
Amanda Somers-Guerrasio	School Psychologist (for meetings/evaluations)	\$44.00/hour	NTE 50 hours
Christine Lopez	LDT-C (for meetings/evaluations)	\$44.00/hour	NTE 50 hours

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Leila Morrelli	Speech & Language Specialist	\$44.00/hour	NTE 50 hours
Caitlin McGarrity	Special Ed. Teachers (for meetings)	\$44.00/hour	Per meeting

14. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staffing of the 2023-2024 ESY Program from July 5, 2023 through August 8, 2023, Mondays through Thursdays from 9:00-12:30, as detailed below:

2023- 2024 ESY July 5th – August 8th, 2023
no school July 4th & no school on Fridays
Salary based on MEA staff contract

ESY Nurse:

Lisa Bruno	School Nurse	\$44.00/hour
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ESY Special Education Teachers:

Name	Position	Salary/Hour
Jennifer Smith	Special Education Teacher	\$44.00/hour
Kristi Lange	Special Education Teacher	\$44.00/hour
Desiree Baroody	Special Education Teacher	\$44.00/hour
Laurie Naftulin	Special Education Teacher	\$44.00/hour

Paraprofessionals:

Name	Position	Salary/Hour
Elizabeth Carpenter	Paraprofessional	\$27.22/hour
Carmine Ann Casolaro	Paraprofessional	\$28.30/hour
Nicole Ellis	Paraprofessional	\$28.30/hour
Suzanne Tighe	Paraprofessional	\$27.22/hour
Nicole Tyburski	Paraprofessional	\$26.95/hour
Sandra Vendas	Paraprofessional	\$28.30/hour
Maria DeAnna	Substitute Paraprofessional	\$28.30/hour

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15. 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
Janelle Lauterbach	Recreation Club After School Assistant	\$36/session NTE 30 sessions
Judy Wargaski	Recreation Club After School (Supervisor or Assistant substitute)	\$36/session
April Starling	FM Math Club Grades 6-8 *ARP Grant funded	\$36/session NTE 30 additional sessions

16. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of **Paul Litwa**, 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 April 3, 2023. (Attachment # 14)

XVI. Curriculum

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro 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, field trips as detailed to the Board of Education.

XVII. Policy

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

Moved: Mr. Hyman Seconded: Dr. Guidici Pietro
 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 first reading:

P 5200	Attendance	Revised/Mandated
R 5200	Attendance	Revised/Mandated

- XVIII. Old Business** - Mrs. Walling proposed revision options for the last 2 of 4 unused "give back" snow days. The Board discussed the options at length and voted on the changes.

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

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, to amend the 2022-2023 school year calendar, to give back 2 final unused snow days on June 16 and 21st.

XIX. New Business - Mr. Goodwin reported after his first meeting with the library as liaison. They approved the 2023 budget, discussed upcoming roof repairs, and were pleased with a great turnout for their open house for adults and children. Dr. Guidici Pietro reminded everyone of the PTO Spring 80's theme fundraiser on 3/23. She also noted some sports updates: NJ Youth Wrestling Championships matches, Nick Schiano took 2nd place, and Ryder Bernholz took 3rd. Also 6th and 7th grade PAL basketball teams finished 1st in their brackets to go onto the championships. She congratulated all of the athletes. Mr. Dillon reported as Borough Liaison that they met with the township to discuss the ongoing partnership with SLEO officers and the budget impact.

XX. Committee Reports - Mrs. Schiano discussed the Curriculum Committee meeting where they went through the Attendance Policy with administration discussing the suggested revisions and reviewed a Tardy Policy for future approval, taking into consideration various approaches to it based on grade levels. Mr. Dillon noted the Budget & Finance committee met several times to discuss what was presented tonight in the tentative budget.

XXI. Public Participation - none

XXII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Venes at 8:53 p.m., seconded by Dr. Guidici Pietro to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 7 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Robinson

Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary