

## Minutes of the Regular Meeting

August 8, 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 Dr. Guidiciopietro, at 6:30 p.m.

### II. Roll Call

At roll call, the following members were present:

Mr. Michael Goodwin

Dr. Dana Guidiciopietro

Mr. Jordan Hyman

Mrs. Vivian Pupo - arrived at 6:40 pm

Mr. Carmine Venes

Also present were Janet Walling, Superintendent of Schools, and Steven Robinson, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

Mr. Bill Dillon and Mrs. Candice Schiano were absent.

### III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

Moved: Mr. Venes

Seconded: Mr. Goodwin

RC: Dillon -absent

Goodwin - yes

Guidiciopietro - yes

Hyman - yes

Pupo - absent

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 6:31 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>Dr. Guidici Pietro</u>		
RC: Dillon - absent	Goodwin - yes	Guidici Pietro - yes	Hyman - yes
Pupo - yes	Schiano - absent	Venes -yes	

The public meeting reconvened at 7:41 p.m.

### V. Flag Salute

### VI. Approval of Minutes

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

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 27, 2023
- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of June 27, 2023

### VII. Correspondence - none

### VIII. Public Participation - none

### IX. President's Report - none

### X. Business Administrator's Report - Mr. Haber presented the results of the Demographic Study and answered various questions from the Board. The Board continued to discuss the matter.

### XI. Superintendent's Report - Mrs. Walling reported that our ESY and Summer Learning Academy programs had been completed and did well. She mentioned that Summer Learning is funded by ARP Federal Grant funds, and we may be able to provide this for one more year with these funds needing to be expended by September 30, 2024. Progress reports were sent out as information for parents. STEM programming was part of the Summer Learning, and all the staff did a great job. Mrs. Walling noted the revised calendar, which included an adjustment to 3 snow days; what any give back days would be; added dates for Back to School nights; and the reorganization meeting moved to Jan. 2nd. She then mentioned school reopening plans. She noted our custodians, the technology department, administrators, and everyone has been working hard to be ready for September. She mentioned that there will be lots of new staff, with the several retirements, resignations, and family leaves in the coming year.

### XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report - Mr. Hyman reported from the last meeting, noting the next meeting will be on 8/10. Berkeley Heights appointed a new Director of Elementary Education Intervention. The Assistant Superintendent and BA resigned. They approved a Class II agreement from 2023-2028. The upcoming agenda for 8/10 includes approvals for a new Asst. Superintendent, an interim Business Administrator, an Assistant BA, and a replacement for a

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Principal. There were 4 candidates for 2 open board seats, 2 board members are not running again. GL is back to school on August 30.

### XIII. Administration

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

Moved: <u>Mr. Venes</u>	Seconded: <u>Mr. Goodwin</u>		
RC: Dillon - absent	Goodwin - yes	Guidici Pietro - yes	Hyman - yes
Pupo - yes	Schiano - absent	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 November 15, 2022 Meeting, which encompasses all HIB findings from February 22, 2023 through June 27, 2023.
2. Motion to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff members to serve on the district ScIP (School Improvement Panel)/Professional Development Committee for the 2023-2024 school year: Suzanne Jenks, Jessica Vierschilling, Michelle Cruz, Natalie Crisafulli, Kathy Goldbeck, Sue Goracy, Corrin Lavery.
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the use of the Charlotte Danielson 2013 Rating System for teacher and other certificated staff evaluations for the 2023-2024 school year.
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the revised school calendar for the 2023-2024 school year. (Attachment #5)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools June and July 2023 safety and security drill reports. (Attachment #6)

### XIV. Budget and Finance

*\*\* Motion #11 amended per Mr. Goodwin's feedback from a recent Committee meeting. Mr. Hyman asked about #6 if this is a one-time fee or ongoing. Mr. Robinson responded.*

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-18**

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

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the month of June 2023. (Attachment #7)
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill lists dated July 1, 2023, through July 18, 2023, and from July 19, 2023 through August 9, 2023. (Attachment #8)

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3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of June 2023 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of June 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the 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 June 2023:

**RESOLVED THAT**, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the month of June 2023 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for June 2023 as submitted and certified (Attachment #9).

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, acceptance of Nonpublic School Transportation Aid in the amount of \$25,896.00.
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the acceptance of FY23 Extraordinary Aide in the amount of \$296,079.00. The additional amount of \$168,783 will be allocated as additional budgetary funds towards 22/23 tuition.
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the approval of an agreement with 3-Education for school lunch point of sales software and equipment, in the amount of \$10,198.00, paid with cafeteria funds, for the 23/24 school year.(Attachment #10)
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following cafeteria price list for 2023-2024:

Lunch		À la Carte Snacks	
Student Lunch	\$3.65	Fresh or Chilled Fruit	\$1.00
Reduced Lunch	Free	Vegetable Side	\$1.00
Student Entrée Only	\$3.00	Yogurt Parfait	\$3.00
Extra Entrée with Lunch	\$3.00	Rice Krispie treat	\$1.50
Adult lunch	\$5.50	Whole Grain Pop-Tart	\$1.25
Beverages		100% Fruit Rollup/Snacks	\$1.00
Milk (½ pint)	\$.75	Assorted Baked Chips	\$1.25
100% juice (4oz.)	\$.75	Soft Pretzel	\$1.50
Bottled water 8oz./16oz.	\$1.25/1.75	Baked Cookie (sm/lg)	\$.75/1.50
Sparkling 100% Juice	\$1.75	Ice Cream (sm/lg)	\$1.75/2.00

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Capri Sun 100% Juice	\$1.25		
Snapple Can 100% Juice	\$2.00		
G2	\$3.00		

8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a contract with the YMCA of Westfield, New Jersey, to provide Before/After Care Program Services for the Mountainside School District, providing a revenue stream to the Mountainside School District in rental fees for fiscal year 2023-2024, in the amount of \$18,400, effective September 7, 2023, to June 20, 2024. (Attachment #11)
9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the approval of an agreement with Tri-County Behavioral Care to provide School Clearance Assessments and/or Substance Evaluation & Treatment services, as needed, for the 2023-24 school year. (Attachment #12)
10. 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 #13). 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.
11. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2023-2024 fee amounts for student activities in accordance with Board Policy 2436, Activity Participation Fee Program:

Activity	Fee
Athletics	\$205 per student*
Clubs/Student Activities	\$50 per student/per activity**

\*If a child plays two or more sports, the cost is \$325 for the year.

\*\*If a child participates in two or more clubs/activities, the cost is \$125 for the year.

\*If two or more children in a family play a sport, the cost is \$175 per sport.

\*If two or more children in a family play two or more sports, the cost is \$275 for each child for the year.

\*If a child is approved for Free/Reduced School Meals, the above fees will be waived.

12. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the acceptance of PTO donations, in the amount of \$12,900, to be used towards the purchase of an electronic sign at Beechwood School.

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13. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with 95% Group, to provide professional development services to the Mountainside School District, for the 2023-24 school year to be funded with Title IA and Title IIA funds. Said agreement includes staff professional development and K-5 teacher product training to be conducted on 9/5/2023 in the amount of \$7,875.
14. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with G2 Athletics, LLC for a 10 session after school program for Beechwood students, to be held Sept. 19th - Nov. 29th, 2023, at a cost of \$550 as outlined under Tier 6 usage fees in district Policy 7510.
15. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the agreement with Golden Arrow Transportation to provide transportation for fall sports, at a rate of \$550.00 per bus. (Attachment #13A)
16. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of DC Fagan Psychological Services as an Independent Contractor/Physician/Agency to conduct Neuropsychological Evaluations and Consultation at a rate of \$3,500 per evaluation, as needed for the 23/24 school year.
17. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the contract with Progressive Therapy of New Jersey for Behavior Technician Services for a trained ESY paraprofessional, from July 1- August 8, 2023, at a rate of \$45/hr. *This was previously approved on June 27, 2023 at a rate of \$40/hr.*
18. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with Staff Development Workshops, to provide professional development services for Mountainside paraprofessional staff on September 5, 2023 in the amount of \$1,800.00 to be funded with Title IIA /ARP federal funds.

### XV. Personnel

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Personnel #1-15**

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro

Seconded: Mr. Hyman

RC: Dillon - absent

Goodwin - yes

Guidici Pietro - yes

Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes

Schiano - absent

Venes -yes

*New personnel employment appointments are contingent upon the required state and federal criminal history background checks (in accordance with N.J.S.A. CH 116, P.L. 1986) and completion of required employee paperwork)*

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of the following new hires for the 2023-2024 school year (Attachment #14):

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Name	Loc.	Position	Salary/Step	Start	End
<b>Annabella Ross</b>	DF	School Guidance Counselor	\$62,681 MA Step 6	9/1/23	6/30/24
<b>Christina Fallon</b>	BW	Special Education Teacher (LLD)	\$66,764 MA Step 9	9/1/23	6/30/24
<b>Molly Phillips</b>	DF	Special Education Teacher	\$62,681 MA Step 6	9/1/23	6/30/24
<b>Lauren Kushner</b>	DF	5th Grade Teacher	\$62,681 MA Step 6	9/1/23	6/30/24
<b>Zondria Bey</b>	DF	Secretary to the Principal	\$57,145 Step 1 (prorated)	8/14/23	6/30/24
<b>Ana Silva</b>	DF	Library/Media Assistant	\$15/hour (up to 10 hrs/wk)	9/1/23	6/30/24
<b>Crissy Zagami</b>	DF	Lunch aide (part-time)	\$15/hour	9/1/23	6/30/24

2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of the following leave replacement teachers for the 2023-2024 school year (Attachment #15):

Name	Loc.	Position	Salary/Step	Start	End
<b>Caitlyn Kube</b>	DF	Gr. 3 Elementary Education Teacher (Mansfield)	\$54,875 BA Step 1	9/1/23	6/20/24
<b>Nicole Tyburski</b>	BW	Gr. 1 Elementary Education Teacher (Roy)	\$54,875 BA Step 1 (prorated)	9/1/23	12/8/23
<b>Kirsten Post</b>	DF	Gr. 3-8 Phys. Ed/Health (Wong)	\$58,451 MA Step 2 (prorated)	11/6/23	5/7/24

3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following resignations (Attachment #16):

Name	Position	Final Date of Employment
<b>Catherine Franciso</b>	Special Education Teacher	Effective 8/27/23
<b>Mara Hermalee</b>	Social Worker Leave Replacement	Effective 8/31/23
<b>Ramona Dunning</b>	5th Grade Teacher	Effective 8/31/23
<b>April Lachica-Campos</b>	Kindergarten Leave Replacement	Effective immediately

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2023-2024 **Substitute Teacher/Support Staff List** (Attachment #17).

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5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2023-2024 School Year **Stipend Positions**, contingent upon student enrollment for those student activities subsidized in accordance with Board Policy 2436, Activity Participation Fee Program. (Attachment #18)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the request for tuition reimbursement from **Cory Berger**, 5th Grade Teacher, for class taken at American College of Education, for the 2023 Spring Session for twelve (12) graduate credits in the amount of \$2,820. (Attachment #19)
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Maternity Disability Leave for **Nicole Cruts/Wong**, Physical Education/Health Teacher, effective November 13, 2023, until January 5, 2024. She will be permitted to utilize accumulated sick days. It is also recommended that Ms. Cruts/Wong be granted unpaid Family Leave from January 8, 2024, until March 29, 2024 in accordance with FMLA and NJFLA. She requests additional unpaid time until May 3, 2024 and anticipates returning to work on May 6, 2024. (Attachment #20)
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Maternity Disability Leave for **Rachel Richards**, 7th Grade Math Teacher, effective November 1, 2023, until January 2, 2024. She will be permitted to utilize accumulated sick days. It is also recommended that Ms. Richards be granted unpaid Family Leave from January 2, 2024, until March 25, 2024 in accordance with FMLA and NJFLA. She requests additional unpaid time until the end of the school year and anticipates returning to work at the start of the 2024/2025 school year. (Attachment #21)
9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the revised contract with **Rebecca Tafaro**, to reflect a part-time schedule, at Step 5MA, at a salary of \$30,722.50 (50% of \$61,445), for the 2023/2024 school year.
10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, additional summer hours as needed for **Denise Barone**, at a rate of \$33.76/per hour.
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 2023/2024 school year, pending successful criminal background and paperwork.
12. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **Christine Kiesewetter**, for 14 hours of paraprofessional shadowing during ESY, at a rate of \$26.95/hour.
13. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **Natalie Crisafulli**, to develop and present new teacher training on Big Ideas Mathematics to be presented on August 30, 2023. Mrs. Crisafulli will be compensated 3 hours for preparation and presentation at a rate of \$56.73/hour as per MEA contract. Costs will be paid through ARP Federal funds.
14. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, additional hours for summer CST work for evaluations as follows:

<b>Amanda Somers-Guerassio</b>	School Psychologist	5 hours	\$44/hour
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<b>Mara Hermelee</b>	Social Worker	8 hours	\$44/hour
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15. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of **Jeni Starinsky**, to the position of Kindergarten Leave Replacement, at the salary of \$54,875, Step 1 BA, prorated, effective September 1, 2023, through approximately November 21, 2023. (Attachment #22)

### **XVI. Policy**

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Policy #1-3**

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

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

P 5339	Screening for Dyslexia	Revised/Mandated
P 7100	Long-Range Facilities Planning	Revised/Mandated

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

P 0152	Board Officers	Revised/Recommended
P 0161	Call, Adjournment, and Cancellation	Revised/Recommended
P 0162	Notice of Board Meetings	Revised/Recommended
P 2520	Instructional Supplies	Revised/Mandated
P 7440	School District Security	Revised/Mandated

3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to abolish the following policies/regulations:

P 3244	In-Service Training
P 8464	Missing Children

### **XVII. Old Business - none**

- XVIII. New Business** - Mr. Hyman asked about an article he saw about climate change curriculum and where we stand. Mrs. Walling responded in great detail, including over \$6,000 in grant money that

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was used for climate change assemblies, as well as hydroponic and sustainable energy supplies for middle school students. She mentioned a shared document where teachers detail cross-curricular areas for things like climate change, which will also be helpful for QSAC purposes. She noted PTO's various environmental programs as well, for example GreenDrop clothing drives, and Lego and marker recycling efforts.

**XIX. Committee Reports - none**

**XX. Public Participation - none**

**XXI. Adjournment - Resolution (Attachment #1)**

A motion was made by Dr. Guidici Pietro at 8:56 p.m., seconded by Mr. Hyman to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 5 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Robinson  
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary