

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

November 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. Pupo, at 6:33 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, Steven Robinson, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and Isabel Machado, Board Attorney.

III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

Moved: Mr. Venes

Seconded: Dr. Guidiciopietro

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.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board adjourn to executive session at 6:35 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>Mr. Venes</u>	Seconded: <u>Mr. Hyman</u>		
RC: Dillon -yes	Goodwin - yes	Guidici Pietro - yes	Hyman - yes
Pupo - yes	Schiano - yes	Venes -yes	

The public meeting reconvened at 7:39 p.m. Mrs. Schiano left the meeting after the executive session.

V. Flag Salute

VI. Approval of Minutes

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

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 17, 2023
- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of October 17, 2023

VII. Correspondence - none

VIII. Public Participation - none

IX. President's Report - Mrs. Pupo welcomed guests in attendance.

X. Superintendent's Report - Mrs. Walling presented certificates to the winners of the Patriot's Pen Essay and Red Ribbon Week Poster contests. She thanked students for their talented submissions and participation making these annual events so special. Afterwards, Mrs. Walling continued by thanking everyone who made our Veteran's Day an honorable celebration in Deerfield. She noted Mrs. Groth's efforts to create the annual Veteran's Wall in Beechwood that everyone enjoys seeing our staff and student connections to veterans, past and present. Mrs. Walling mentioned what a busy month it's been, including a smooth season of parent/teacher conferences. She provided an overview of QSAC information, the upcoming audit this year, the various categories the NJDOE looks at, our DPR and self-assessment on the agenda, and the anticipated visit from the county in February.

XI. Business Administrator's Report - none

XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report - Mr. Hyman reported from the last 2 meetings. A special meeting on 11/2 with Patty Reese focused on board goals, specifically communication. The meeting on 11/16 had a new Business Administrator, Anthony Juskiewicz, with approvals of new coaches for hockey and wrestling and other winter sports updates. He noted the fall play was

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excellent. The new Assistant Principal will begin on 12/12. They discussed various school programs, like National Merit Scholars. There will be a special meeting on 12/7 to interview architects.

XIII. Administration

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Administration #1-6**

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

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2022-2023 New Jersey Department of Education School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act for Beechwood and Deerfield Schools. (Attachment #2)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the School Safety and Security Plan Annual Review Statement of Assurance (Attachment #3).
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the submission of the District Performance Review (DPR) for NJ Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) Statement of Assurance – School Year 2023-2024. (Attachment #4)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the updated Mentoring Plan, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9C regulations. (Attachment #5)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the use of the "New Jersey Principal Evaluation for Professional Learning Observation Instrument" for administrative staff evaluations for the 2023-2024 school year.
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools October 2023 safety and security drill reports. (Attachment #6)

XIV. Budget and Finance

**Mr. Hyman asked about tree service and the STEAM grant, to which Mr. Robinson and Mrs. Walling responded. Mr. Dillon commented on #9 asking about the costs of special education out of district placements, to which Mrs. Walling responded.*

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-10**

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

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the months of September and October 2023. (Attachment #7)

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2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated October 19, 2023, through November 22, 2023. (Attachment #8)
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the months of September and October 2023 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the months of September and October 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 September and October 2023:

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

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the cooperative agreement between the Mountainside Board of Education and Berkeley Heights for a middle school wrestling program. (Attachment #10)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with G2 Athletics, LLC for a 10 session after school tennis program for Beechwood students, to be held January 4th-March 7th, at a cost of \$550 as outlined under Tier 6 usage fees in district Policy 7510.
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with Golden Arrow Transportation to provide transportation for the basketball season, at a rate of \$550.00 per bus. (Attachment #10A)
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept an MEF grant in the amount of \$2,800, to be used to enhance the STEAM program with robotics equipment.
8. 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 #11). 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.
9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, special education placements and services as per (Attachment #12).
10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve home instruction for Student #2936698529, for up to 10 hours per week, provided by Dr. L. Hanes & Associates, at a rate of \$75/hour.

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XV. Personnel

**Mrs. Walling acknowledged Mrs. Barone's retirement and noted she will be honored at the December meeting. A board member asked what the Green Team Club; Mrs. Walling explained it's sustainability and earth day focus for 1st and 2nd graders.*

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

Moved: Mr. Hyman

Seconded: Dr. Guidici Pietro

RC: Dillon -yes

Goodwin - yes

Guidici Pietro - yes

Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes

Schiano - absent

Venes -yes

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the retirement of **Denise Barone**, Deerfield Secretary, effective January 1, 2024, and thank her for nearly 19 years of dedicated service to the Mountainside School District. (Attachment #13)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a medical leave of absence for **Employee #96953559**, beginning November 2, 2022 through November 27, 2023.
3. 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 Summer/Fall Sessions for twelve (12) graduate credits in the amount of \$2,820. (Attachment #14)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointments of the following leave replacement teachers as follows:

Name	Loc.	Position	Salary/Step	Start	End
Kirsten Post	DF	Gr. 3 Elementary	\$58,451 MA Step 2 (prorated)	11/6/23	12/11/23
JoAnn DiPaola	DF	Gr. 3-8 Phys. Ed/Health	\$54,875 BA Step 1 (prorated)	11/13/23	12/11/23
Kirsten Post	DF	Gr. 3-8 Phys. Ed/Health	\$58,451 MA Step 2 (prorated)	*12/12/23	5/7/24

**this date is revised from the previous approval on August 8, 2023*

5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff for curriculum writing, at a rate of \$44/hour:

Teacher	Content Area	Grade Level	Hours
Natalie Crisafulli	Civics Curriculum	Grade 8	NTE 10 hours
	Theater Curriculum	Grades K-5	

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	Theater Curriculum	Grades 6-8	
Michelle Cruz	Writing Curriculum	Grade 8	NTE 4 hours

6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of the following to the 2023-2024 Substitute Teacher List, pending paperwork and successful criminal background check. (Attachment #15)

Name	Certification	Rate
Erimina Hennings	Teacher Cert	\$125/day
Pranathi Aedla	Sub Cert pending w/ degree	\$115/day
Jamie Hibbersen	Sub Cert. (pending)	\$105/day
Audrey Cardone	Sub Cert pending w/ degree	\$115/day
Jeni Starinsky (LTS)	Teacher Cert	\$125/day
Carla Rodrigues	Teacher Cert	\$125/day
Victoria Wojcik	Sub Cert. (pending)	\$105/day

7. 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.

Name	Position	Salary
Judy Wargaski	Assistant Play Director	\$2,471.00
Victoria Tiscia	Art Club - Grades 5-6 <i>*add'l section due to high enrollment</i>	\$36.00/session NTE 30 sessions
Dawn Bladzinski Nara Sterba Holly Ambrose	Beechwood Green Team Club <i>*2 advisors will attend each session</i>	\$36.00/session NTE 15 sessions
Michelle Cruz	Reading Club - Grades 3-4 (Title I funded)	\$36.00/session NTE 60 sessions/grade
Sharon Scanlan	Literacy Club - Grade 7 (Title I funded)	\$36.00/session NTE 60 sessions/grade

8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following clubs to be paid out of Title I funding, and not ARP grant funding as previously approved:

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POSITION	NAME
Jr. Math Club Grades 1-2	Julia Chirls
Jr. Math Club Grades 3-5	Dayna Carroll - Gr 3 Axl Hirsch - Gr. 4 April Starling - Gr 5
FM Math Club Grades 6-8	Axl Hirsch - Gr. 7 Axl Hirsch - Gr. 8 S. Mlynarczyk - Gr 6
Reading Club Grades 1-2	Stephanie Cuccio

9. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mountainside Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Dr. Fennelly to perform an Examination for Cause pursuant to Policy No. 3161, for **Employee #96953559** to be paid by the Mountainside Board of Education.

XVI. Curriculum

**Mrs. Walling thanked staff for finalizing the curriculum on the agenda tonight.*

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro

Seconded: Mr. Goodwin

RC: Dillon -yes

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 curricular documents for Mountainside Schools:

Subject Area	Grade Levels
World Language/Spanish	Grades K-2
Theater	Grades K-5, 6-8
Writing	Grade 8
Civics	Grade 8

2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, field trips as detailed to the Board of Education.

XVII. Policy

A board member asked a question about the abolished policies; Mrs. Walling responded.

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

Moved: Mr. Hyman

Seconded: Mr. Venes

RC: Dillon -yes

Goodwin - yes

Guidici Pietro - yes

Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes

Schiano - absent

Venes -yes

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1. Move the Board of Education suspend Bylaw 0131 and adopt the revised mandated policy 2415.04, and new policy 2415.50 and 2415.51 with one reading:

P 2415.04	Title I - District-Wide Parental Involvement	Revised/Mandated
P 2415.50	Beechwood Title I - School Parent and Family Engagement	New/Mandated
P 2415.51	Deerfield Title I - School Parent and Family Engagement	New/Mandated

2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following for the first reading:

P 1648.15	Recordkeeping for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings – COVID-19	New/Mandated
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3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following policies for the second reading and adoption:

P 1230	Superintendent's Duties	Revised/Mandated
P 2425	Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program	Revised/Mandated
P 8441	Care of Injured or Ill Persons	Revised/Mandated
P 8500	Food Services	Revised/Mandated

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

5512.01	Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying
5512.02	Cyber-Bullying
P 8540	School Nutrition Program
P 8550	Meal Charges/Outstanding Food Service Bill

XVIII. Old Business - Mr. Venes commented on reports about the lack of vocational curriculum in schools in general. Mrs. Walling commented that STEAM offers hand-on learning with tools, but also noted that vocational courses are typically offered at the high school level.

XIX. New Business - Mr. Hyman congratulated Mrs. Pupo and Dr. Guidici Pietro on their re-election to the board. He also noted the school board convention was well worth it, with many useful and practical sessions.

XX. Committee Reports -none

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XXI. Public Participation - none

XXII. Executive Session and Adjournment - Resolution (Attachment #1)

A motion was made by Dr. Guidici Pietro at 8:21 p.m., seconded by Mr. Goodwin to move to a 2nd Executive Session and adjourn. The Public Session was not reconvened as no further action was taken. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 6 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Robinson
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary