

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

January 23, 2024

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 6:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

At roll call, the following members were present:

Mr. Bill Dillon

Mr. Michael Goodwin

Dr. Dana Guidici Pietro - arrived after roll call at 6:35 p.m.

Mr. Jordan Hyman

Mrs. Vivian Pupo

Mrs. Candice Schiano

Mr. Carmine Venes

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

III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

Moved: Mr. Hyman

Seconded: Mr. Goodwin

RC: Dillon -yes

Goodwin - yes

Guidici Pietro - 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 6:32 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>Mrs. Schiano</u>	Seconded: <u>Mr. Goodwin</u>		
RC: Dillon -yes	Goodwin - yes	Guidici Pietro - yes	Hyman - yes
Pupo - yes	Schiano - yes	Venes -yes	

The public meeting reconvened at 7:37 p.m.

V. Flag Salute

VI. Approval of Minutes

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	

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 19, 2023
- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of December 19, 2023
- ❖ Minutes of the Reorganization Meeting of January 2, 2024

VII. Correspondence - none

VIII. Public Participation - none

IX. President's Report - none

- X. Superintendent's Report** - Mrs. Walling recognized and thanked the Board members for their time, as January is Board Recognition Month. She thanked everyone for their patience with recent weather that required various emergency closures. She noted that benchmark testing is in progress. Mrs. Walling mentioned that we've been busy preparing for QSAC. Our date for visitation will be 2/22, and the County BA will be visiting our buildings on 1/29. She noted the many activities that are taking place in our schools, and reminded everyone of appropriate behavior while attending sporting events. She said the volleyball clinic with Ms. Posner has been well attended, and we will be recommending an official girls team for next year. The 24-25 calendar is on the agenda for approval.

- XI. Business Administrator's Report** - Mrs. Sullivan reviewed the Budget Calendar. She commented that it was unusual that the state removed the posted calendar from their website. She is working on drafting the budget and the difficulties working within the 2% cap. She and Mrs. Walling will be meeting with administrators in the next couple of weeks to prepare budgets. As of now, the budget will be approved on 3/19 since the budget is due to the county on 3/20. She plans to meet with the Finance Committee the week of 2/26 for preliminary discussions, and again the week of 3/11. The public hearing on the budget is April 30th so our board meeting was moved to

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accommodate this. Mr. Hyman asked about enrollment numbers at GL, to which Mrs. Sullivan responded, noting it will be a tight budget regardless.

- XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report** - Mr. Hyman reported from the last Berkeley Heights meetings on 1/4/24 Reorg. and 1/18. The presidency was not decided, so the county superintendent will decide by the 2/8 meeting. He provided sports and other extracurricular updates. The 2nd marking period just ended. The board accepted a resignation letter from Superintendent Varley. They will use a search company to assist with the replacement process.

XIII. Administration

Mr. Hyman asked about Back to School Nights. Mrs. Walling will send ours to Berkeley Heights so they can coordinate when they schedule theirs.

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

Moved: <u>Dr. Guidici Pietro</u>	Seconded: <u>Mr. Goodwin</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 2024 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

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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 Memorandum Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials.
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2024-2025 School Year Calendar. (Attachment #2)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Statement of Assurance Regarding the Use of Paraprofessional Staff – 2023-2024 School Year (Attachment #3)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools December 2023 safety and security drill reports. (Attachment #4)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, voluntary participation of identified Beechwood School classes in a doctoral research project entitled, “Enhancing Divergent Thinking in Gifted and Talented Students through Targeted Instructional Approaches in K–6 Cluster Classes,” being overseen by Mrs. Meredith Thomas, Holmdel Township School District Gifted and Talented Specialist.

XIV. Budget and Finance

Mr. Hyman asked for some clarification on #5, to which Mrs. Walling and Mr. Dillon responded. Mr. Dillon commented on #7, that the Finance Committee discussed and agreed to the slight increase.

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-9**

Moved: Mr. Hyman

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 list of budget transfers for the month of December 2023. (Attachment #5)
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated December 21, 2023, through January 24, 2024. (Attachment #6)
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month December 2023 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of December 2023; and

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WHEREAS, the Interim Board Secretary, Dana Sullivan, 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 December 2023:

RESOLVED THAT, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the month of December 2023 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for December 2023 as submitted and certified. (Attachment #7)

4. **RESOLVED THAT**, by the School Board of Mountainside School District approve the following banks to act as a depository for public funds, and that all checks, drafts or other orders for payment or withdrawal of money from said account be signed by the person holding the appropriate title as listed below:

Account	Bank	Signatories
Operating	Valley Bank	Board President/Business Administrator
Payroll	Valley Bank	Board President/Business Administrator
Food Service	Valley Bank	Superintendent/Business Administrator
Payroll Agency	Valley Bank	Superintendent/Business Administrator
SUI	Valley Bank	Superintendent/Business Administrator
BW School General Fund	Valley Bank	Beechwood Principal/Business Administrator /Superintendent
DF School General Fund	Valley Bank	Deerfield Principal/Deerfield Secretary
DF Athletic Fund	Valley Bank	Deerfield Principal/Deerfield Secretary
DF Student Council Fund	Valley Bank	Deerfield Principal/Student Council Advisor

5. Move to approve, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the increase in tuition of \$50,614.16, based on average daily enrollment due to Berkeley Heights Governor Livingston High School for the 21-22 school year, the 22-23 school year, and for resource room services provided for the 22-23 school year.
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to contract with Interim Healthcare of South Plainfield, for substitute nursing services through December 31, 2024, as needed, at a rate of \$62.25/hr for RN, \$57/hr for LPN services. (Attachment #8)
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and pursuant to the authority granted by N.J.S.A. 18A: 44-4(B), the Mountainside Board of Education hereby establishes the

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following per pupil yearly tuition rate for non-disabled pupils enrolled in its preschool program (PEAK) for the 2024-2025 school year: \$5,170 for 5 half day sessions.

8. Move to approve an agreement for participation in Coordinated Transportation Services between Union County Educational Services Commission and the Mountainside Board of Education for Transportation for the 2023-2024 school year. (Attachment #9)
9. 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 #10). 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.

XV. Personnel

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Personnel #1-7**

Moved: Mr. Venes Seconded: Mrs. Schiano

RC: Dillon -yes (abstained from #7) Goodwin - yes Guidici Pietro - yes Hyman - yes
 Pupo - yes Schiano - yes Venes -yes

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **Stephanie Cuccio** to complete her 90 internship hours, as required by Kean University SPED 5490 course for Learning Consultants. (Attachment #11)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the notification to take classes from **Jen Smith**, PEAK Teacher, for classes taken at TCNJ, as follows:
 - 2023 Fall Session for three (3) graduate credits in the amount of \$1,995.
 - 2024 Spring Session for three (3) graduate credits in the amount of \$1,995.(Attachment #12)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the request for tuition reimbursement from **Jen Smith**, PEAK Teacher, for classes taken at TCNJ, for the 2023 Fall Session for three (3) graduate credits in the amount of \$1,995. (Attachment #13)
4. 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 Summer/Fall Session for twelve (12) graduate credits in the amount of \$2,820. (Attachment #14)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of the following to the 2023-2024 Substitute List, pending paperwork and successful criminal background check. (Attachment #15)

Name	Certification	Rate
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Rebecca Ladenheim	Substitute Nurse	\$200 per diem
Nicole Helou	Teaching Cert.	\$125 per diem

6. 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.

Position	Name	Salary
Jazz Band Director	Tom Wise	\$43/session NTE 60 sessions
Band Director - Lessons	Tom Wise	\$43/session NTE 60 sessions
Asst. Play Director - Pit Band	Tom Wise	\$612 (3+ yr. rate)
Chess Club K-2	Greg Gormly	\$36/session NTE 30 sessions

7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff to assist Mr. Rosenblum and Mrs. Wargaski with the middle school play. Stipends will be paid through the Student Activities Music Fund. **Pending successful background check*

Name	Position	Rate
Lindsey Garnhart*	Choreographer	\$3,000
Irene Rigos	Crew Supervisor	\$800
High School Volunteers	Parent Volunteers	
Andrew Gamboa Anthony Tranquilli Emma Wargaski Anthony Zacieracha	Genevieve Cooper Karen Dillon Cathy Eser Cynthia Luna Karen Malet Stephanie Phillipou	Claudia Shehady Donald Steinmetz Fatima Wilches Anne Woodard Michele Worth

XVI. Policy

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

Moved: Mr. Goodwin

Seconded: Mrs. Schiano

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, the following policies/regulations for the first reading:

P 3161	Examination for Cause	Revised/Recommended
P 4161	Examination for Cause	Revised/Recommended
P 5111 R 5111	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students	Revised/Mandated Revised/Mandated

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

P 3212 R 3212	Attendance	Revised/Mandated New
P 4212 R 4212	Attendance	Revised/Mandated New
P 6660	Student Activity Fund	Revised/Mandated

XVIII. Old Business - none

- XIX. New Business** - Mr. Goodwin brought up a full day PEAK program for discussion and consideration. The pros and cons of the impact on the existing building, class structure, and need for it to be financially self-sustaining were discussed by Mrs. Walling and other Board members. Discussion also included consideration of this when developing our next 5-year Strategic Plan and a recommendation to survey the community to see about interest in the future.

- XX. Committee Reports** - Dr. Guidici Pietro, PTO Liaison, reminded everyone to support the PTO at the Spring fundraiser on March 14th. Mr. Dillon mentioned a Finance Committee meeting that discussed PEAK, as discussed previously.

- XXI. Public Participation** - A community member/former student and a current Seton Hall student had to attend a public meeting as an assignment. He asked about distributing a PEAK survey broadly. He commented on enjoying chess clubs as a student, and helping teach younger students. He asked generally how grants work for expansions. Mrs. Walling responded and thanked him for attending. He asked for information on what a 2% cap means, and Mrs. Sullivan briefly explained the tax levy and state rules. He asked a final question about the relationship between us and Berkeley Heights to which Mr. Hyman responded.

XXII. Adjournment - Resolution (Attachment #1)

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Sullivan
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary