

# 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**

**II. Roll Call**

Mr. Bill Dillon	_____
Mr. Michael Goodwin	_____
Dr. Dana Guidiciopietro	_____
Mr. Jordan Hyman	_____
Mrs. Vivian Pupo	_____
Mrs. Candice Schiano	_____
Mr. Carmine Venes	_____

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

Moved: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_  
RC: Dillon \_\_\_\_\_ Goodwin \_\_\_\_\_ Guidiciopietro \_\_\_\_\_  
Hyman \_\_\_\_\_ Pupo \_\_\_\_\_ Schiano \_\_\_\_\_ Venes \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Legal/Personnel

**IV. Close Executive Session and Reconvene Public Session**

Moved: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_  
RC: Dillon \_\_\_\_\_ Goodwin \_\_\_\_\_ Guidiciopietro \_\_\_\_\_  
Hyman \_\_\_\_\_ Pupo \_\_\_\_\_ Schiano \_\_\_\_\_ Venes \_\_\_\_\_

**V. Flag Salute**

**VI. 7:30 p.m. Public Hearing on the Final 2024-2025 Budget**

**VII. Public Comments on the Budget**

**VIII. Approval of Minutes**

Moved: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_  
RC: Dillon \_\_\_\_\_ Goodwin \_\_\_\_\_ Guidiciopietro \_\_\_\_\_  
Hyman \_\_\_\_\_ Pupo \_\_\_\_\_ Schiano \_\_\_\_\_ Venes \_\_\_\_\_

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- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 19, 2024
- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of March 19, 2024
- ❖ Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 8, 2024

**IX. Correspondence**

**X. Public Participation - Agenda Items Only**

In accordance with Board Policy 0167, Public Participation in Board Meetings, in the event it appears the public comment portion of the meeting may exceed 30 minutes, the presiding officer may limit each statement made by a participant to three (3) minutes' duration.

**XI. President's Report**

**XII. Superintendent's Report**

- ❖ NJSLA Testing
- ❖ District Updates

**XIII. Business Administrator's Report**

**XIV. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report**

**XV. Administration**

Moved: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_  
RC: Dillon \_\_\_\_\_ Goodwin \_\_\_\_\_ Guidici Pietro \_\_\_\_\_  
Hyman \_\_\_\_\_ Pupo \_\_\_\_\_ Schiano \_\_\_\_\_ Venes \_\_\_\_\_

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 March 19, 2024 Meeting, which encompasses all HIB findings from February 1, 2024 through March 19, 2024.
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the revised school calendar with emergency give back day adjustments as follows: (Attachment #2)  
  
*School closed 5/24 and 6/20. 6/18 is now a half day, and 6/19 is the last day of school.*
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools March 2024 safety and security drill reports. (Attachment #3)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools Bus Evacuation Drill reports. (Attachment #4)

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**XVI. Budget and Finance**

Moved: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_  
RC: Dillon \_\_\_\_\_ Goodwin \_\_\_\_\_ Guidici Pietro \_\_\_\_\_  
Hyman \_\_\_\_\_ Pupo \_\_\_\_\_ Schiano \_\_\_\_\_ Venes \_\_\_\_\_

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the month of March 2024. (Attachment #5)
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated March 21, 2024, through April 30, 2024. (Attachment #6)
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of March 2024 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of March 2024; and

**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 March 2024:

**RESOLVED THAT**, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the month of March 2024 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for March 2024 as submitted and certified. (Attachment #7)

4. **WHEREAS**, the Mountainside Board of Education adopted a tentative budget on March 19, 2024 to be submitted to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval, and

**WHEREAS**, the tentative budget was approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools on April 4, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the tentative budget was advertised in the legal section of the Westfield Leader on April 25, 2024;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mountainside Board of Education hereby adopts the 2024-2025 School Year budget and,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that there should be raised for the General Funds tax levy \$18,412,094 for the ensuing School Year 2024-2025 and,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that there should be raised for Debt Service tax levy, \$849,069, for the ensuing School Year 2024-2025 as follows:

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	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUES	DEBT SERVICE	TOTAL
<b>2024-25 Total Expenditures</b>	\$21,109,145	\$158,118	\$1,287,690	\$22,554,953
<b>Less: Anticipated Revenues</b>	\$2,697,051	\$158,188	\$438,621	\$3,293,790
<b>Taxes to Be Raised</b>	\$18,412,094	\$0	\$849,069	\$19,261,163

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education includes in the final budget the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$58,935. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefit premiums.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education includes in the final budget an appropriation of surplus in the amount of \$394,655.

**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 \$85,000 to be used to replace network switches and wireless access points.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the general fund appropriations include a \$86,123 withdrawal from the Tuition Reserve Account which were deposited into the account in SY 2022-2023 and are now required to be withdrawn to pay tuition obligations in SY 2024-2025.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approves a separate proposal in the amount of \$396,000 which will result in a permanent increase in the tax levy as follows:

3 Teachers and Benefits	\$289,000
1 Part Time Curriculum Coordinator	\$ 60,000
Contracted Mental Health Support	\$ 30,000
After School Academic Support	\$ 17,000

These expenditures are in addition to those required to achieve NJSLS.

**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 2024-2025 school year amount shall be set at \$26,000. The maximum travel expenditure for the 2023-2024 school

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year is \$26,000, of which \$7,078 has been spent and \$322 is encumbered as of March 6, 2024.

**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

5. **WHEREAS**, the Mountainside Board of Education applies for annual funding through the Schools and Libraries Program of the Universal Service Fund, more commonly known as the “E-Rate” Program, which provides discounts to eligible entities for Internet Access services.

**WHEREAS**, the districts E-Rate Consultants, E2E Exchange solicited bids through a posted FCC Form 470 number 240009626 in accordance with E-Rate Program rules to initiate the competitive bidding process to solicit bids from vendors to replace network switches and wireless access points.

**WHEREAS**, the Technology Department reviewed the bids submitted to the district and hereby recommend that the Board approve the award of contract to Custom Computer Specialists for a total cost of \$84,714.32

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mountainside School District approves the award of contract to Custom Computer Specialists to replace the network switches and wireless access points for a total contract price of \$84,714.32.

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6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the acceptance of a grant for "Additional or Compensatory Special Education and Related Services (ACSERS) for Students with Disabilities who are 21 as of July 1, 2023" in the amount of \$212,964 for the 23-24 school year.
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Architect of Record agreement with Solutions Architecture for the 2024-2025 school year. (Attachment #8)
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 2024-2025 school year. (Attachment #9)
9. Move to approve an agreement for participation in Coordinated Transportation Services between Morris-Union Jointure Commission and the Mountainside Board of Education for Transportation for the 2024-2025 school year.
10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Student Transportation Contract Renewal with Durham School Service for the 2024-2025 school year, at the CPI increase rate of 5.81% for all 5 routes. (Attachment #10)
11. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Mountainside Board of Education set the annual fee for Subscription Busing for SY 2024-2025 at \$725.
12. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Dr. Ronald M. Frank, MD FAAFP, to provide School Physician Services, in the amount \$2,350, for the 2024-2025 school year. (Attachment #11)
13. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a 12-month agreement with BrightStar Care for nursing services, at a rate of \$95/hour, effective May 1, 2024.
14. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Mountainside Board of Education approve the amendment of the settlement agreement with respect to student #6526072804, a copy of which is on file with the Superintendent of Schools.
15. Motion to approve upon recommendation of the superintendent, continued participation in various state and national cooperative contracts as a method of procurement in accordance with Chapter 139 PL 2011 as referenced in Local Finance Notice 2012-12, May 14, 2012 for the 2024-2025 school year to include:
  - Educational Data Services, Inc with a licensing and maintenance fee of \$1,835 (Attachment #12)

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16. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to contract with R&L DataCenters, Inc., for payroll and related services from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. (Attachment # 13)
17. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the proposal from JAG Consulting, LLC. for information technology services in the 2024-2025 school year at a rate of \$35 an hour. (Attachment #14)
18. 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 #15). 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.

**XVII. Personnel**

Moved: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_  
RC: Dillon \_\_\_\_\_ Goodwin \_\_\_\_\_ Guidici Pietro \_\_\_\_\_  
Hyman \_\_\_\_\_ Pupo \_\_\_\_\_ Schiano \_\_\_\_\_ Venes \_\_\_\_\_

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the retirement of **Thomas McGowan**, Beechwood Custodian, effective July 1, 2024, and thank him for his incredible 27 years of service to the Mountainside School District. (Attachment #16)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following requests to extend leaves of absence (Attachment #17):

Name	Position	LOA w/ pay & benefits	LOA unpaid with benefits (if applicable)	Extended LOA w/o pay or benefits	Return Date
N. Wong	PE/Health Teacher	n/a	n/a	May 6-17 2024	5/20/24

3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to extend the appointment of **Kirsten Post**, as PE Leave Replacement effective May 6, 2024 through June 19, 2024.
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a medical leave of absence for **Employee #90247511**, beginning May 14, 2024 through June 19, 2024.

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5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a medical leave of absence for **Employee #90163080**, beginning April 22, 2024 through May 6, 2024.
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following adjustments for paraprofessionals as follows beginning the week of April 15, 2024:

Staff Member	Additional work day:	Rate:
<b>Lydra Shehu</b>	Thursdays	\$27.22/hour
<b>Teri Schrul</b>	Fridays	\$28.30/hour

7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of the following to the 2023-2024 Substitute Teacher List:

Name	Certification	Rate
<b>Grace Elliott (LTS)</b>	Teacher Cert.	\$125/day

8. 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 #18)

Name	Days	Rate	Approx. Total
<b>Cole Williams</b>	8 Weeks (July-Aug)	\$16.85/hr.	\$5,000
<b>Ayden Negron</b>	8 Weeks (July-Aug)	\$16.85/hr.	\$5,000

9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staffing for the 2024-2025 Summer Learning Academy from July 8, 2024 through August 1, 2024, Mondays through Thursdays, at rate of \$44.00/hour, not to exceed 4 hours per day. Program is supported through ARP Federal Grant Funding:

<b>Holly Ambrose</b>	<b>Teresa Banks</b>	<b>Michelle Jamnik</b>	<b>Lori Topel</b>
<b>Michelle Cruz</b>	<b>Kelly Herscheit</b>	<b>Nicole Tyburski</b>	<b>Stephanie Mlynarczyk</b>

10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **Lori Topel** as the Summer Learning Academy Coordinator, at a rate of \$44 per hour, not to exceed 15 hours. Cost will be supported through ARP Federal Grant funding.



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11. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the notification to take class and a request for tuition reimbursement for **Paige Primmer**, Special Education Teacher, for classes taken at Fairleigh Dickinson University for 2024 WIFFT Sessions for Orton Gillingham certification hours, in the amount of \$270.00. (Attachment #19)
12. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff for 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.

Staff Members	Position	Rate
Bryan Young	8th Grade Trip Chaperone	\$278 (3+ yr rate)
Axl Hirsch	8th Grade Trip Chaperone	\$278 (3+ yr rate)
Sarah Onore	8th Grade Trip Chaperone	\$278 (3+ yr rate)
Dan Kessler	8th Grade Trip Chaperone	\$278 (3+ yr rate)
Madison Phillips	8th Grade Trip Chaperone	\$265 (1-2 yr. rate)
Nina Woo	8th Grade Trip Chaperone	\$278 (3+ yr rate)
Jessica Goldstein	8th Grade Trip Chaperone	\$278 (3+ yr rate)
Caitlin Styles	8th Grade Trip Chaperone	\$278 (3+ yr rate)
Sonia Branco	8th Grade Trip Chaperone	\$278 (3+ yr rate)
Suzanne Jenks	8th Grade Trip Administrator	n/a

*\* and to rescind Vincent Stasio as chaperone previously approved on 8/8/23*

13. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Child Study Team Staffing for meetings, evaluations, and case management effective June 20, 2024 to August 31, 2024.

Name	Assignment	Rate	Not to Exceed
<b>Amanda Somers-Guerrasio</b>	School Psychologist (for meetings/evaluations)	\$44.00/hour	NTE 50 hours
<b>Eileen D'Antonio</b>	School Social Worker (for meetings/evaluations)	\$44.00/hour	NTE 50 hours

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14. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staffing of the 2024-2025 ESY Program from July 1, 2024 through August 1, 2024, from 9:00-12:30, as detailed below:

**2024- 2025 ESY July 1st – August 1st, 2024**

Dates as follows:

Week 1: July 1-3 (Mon-Wed. No school July 4th)  
Week 2: July 8-12 (Mon - Fri)  
Week 3: July 15-18 (Mon-Thur)  
Week 4: July 22-25 (Mon-Thur)  
Week 5: July 29-Aug 1 (Mon-Thur)

Salary based on MEA staff contract  
**ESY Special Education Teachers**

Name	Position	Salary/Hour
<b>Stephanie Cuccio</b>	Special Education Teacher	\$44.00/hour
<b>Lauren Kushner</b>	Special Education Teacher	\$44.00/hour
<b>Leila Morrelli</b>	Speech-Language Therapist	\$44.00/hour

15. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of **Marilyn Nacci**, Paraprofessional, effective May 30, 2024, and thank her for her dedication to the Mountainside School District. (Attachment #20)

**XVIII. Curriculum**

Moved: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_  
RC: Dillon \_\_\_\_\_ Goodwin \_\_\_\_\_ Guidici Pietro \_\_\_\_\_  
Hyman \_\_\_\_\_ Pupo \_\_\_\_\_ Schiano \_\_\_\_\_ Venes \_\_\_\_\_

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

**XIX. Policy**

Moved: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_  
RC: Dillon \_\_\_\_\_ Goodwin \_\_\_\_\_ Guidici Pietro \_\_\_\_\_  
Hyman \_\_\_\_\_ Pupo \_\_\_\_\_ Schiano \_\_\_\_\_ Venes \_\_\_\_\_

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

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P 2411	Guidance Counseling	Revised/Mandated
P 2423	Bilingual Education	Revised/Mandated
P 2431.4 R 2431.4	Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries	Revised/Mandated

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

P 1140	Educational Equity Policies/Affirmative Action	Revised/Mandated
P 1523	Comprehensive Equity Plan	Revised/Mandated
P 1530	Equal Employment Opportunities	Revised/Mandated
P 1550	Equal Employment/Anti-Discrimination Practices	Revised/Mandated
P 2260	Equity in School and Classroom Practices	Revised/Mandated
P 5750	Equitable Educational Opportunities	Revised/Mandated

**XX. Old Business**

**XXI. New Business**

**XXII. Committee Reports**

**XXIII. Public Participation**

In accordance with Board Policy 0167, Public Participation in Board Meetings, in the event it appears the public comment portion of the meeting may exceed 30 minutes, the presiding officer may limit each statement made by a participant to three (3) minutes' duration.

**XXIV. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)**

Moved: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_  
 RC: Dillon \_\_\_\_\_ Goodwin \_\_\_\_\_ Guidici Pietro \_\_\_\_\_  
       Hyman \_\_\_\_\_ Pupo \_\_\_\_\_ Schiano \_\_\_\_\_ Venes \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Legal/Personnel

**XXV. Adjournment**

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Moved: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_  
RC: Dillon \_\_\_\_\_ Goodwin \_\_\_\_\_ Guidici Pietro \_\_\_\_\_  
Hyman \_\_\_\_\_ Pupo \_\_\_\_\_ Schiano \_\_\_\_\_ Venes \_\_\_\_\_