

Mountainside Board of Education

Meeting Highlights

February 18, 2025



This newsletter provides a monthly summary of discussions and actions taken at the Mountainside Board of Education meetings.

These are not the official minutes. Please check our website for the official minutes and additional information.

Our meetings are recorded and can be viewed on our website.

Mountainside School District Board of Education
 Vivian Pupo (President), Dana Guidici Pietro (Vice President)
 Bill Dillon, Michael Goodwin, Jordan Hyman,
 Candice Schiano, Carmine Venes

Administrative Team
 Janet Walling, Superintendent of Schools
 Dana Sullivan, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary
 Suzanne Jenks, Principal – Deerfield School
 Jessica Vierschilling, Principal – Beechwood School
 Sheri Rouleau, Supervisor of Special Services

Action Items	Action Taken
Approval of Minutes	<i>BOE approved minutes for:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 21, 2025 Minutes of the 1st Executive Session of January 21, 2025 Minutes of the 2nd Executive Session of January 21, 2025
Correspondence	none
Public Participation	none
President's Report	none
Superintendent's Report	Mrs. Walling reported on the Student Safety Data System (SSDS) report. She reported on the recent and upcoming events in DF. She met with Imagine, and we have been chosen as part of a pilot program on grief education for 8th graders. They will provide free training and resources for staff. This is a required curriculum beginning next year. She and Mrs. Crisafulli are looking into our math curriculum and data, since BH will be changing their 8th grade courses. We are finishing mid-year benchmarking, to identify growth and challenges. Our new Reading Specialist, Ms. Blanco has been a great addition.
Business Administrator's Report	Mrs. Sullivan reported that the first draft of the budget is ready, she is still waiting on state aid numbers. She will be meeting again with the Budget & Finance Committee before the March meeting. The passing of the public question has helped our tax base.
BH Liaison Report	Mr. Dillon reported that the Board President and Vice-President are in place, committees are still officially pending, but some ad-hoc groups have been established meanwhile. Spring coaches and the architect for the referendum have been approved. A special meeting will take place to give information on the referendum. Mr. Dillon likes the student participation at board meetings, and thinks their concerns are important to hear, and communication is key.
Administration	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> HIB reports; SSDS Report; SEMI waiver; ESY 2025 schedule; Jan. Drill Reports.
Budget and Finance	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Budget transfers for Jan 2025; Payment of the Bill Lists; Board Secretary Report for Jan. 2025; G2 Athletics, LLC Sports Camps; Watts donation of \$1,600; Agreement with Golden Arrow for spring sports; Building use with Mountainside FC, Inc; School District Travel.
Personnel	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Resignation of K. Eckert, K Teacher, effective 6/30/25; Appointment of mentors for F. Melo and D. Chango; Stipend positions; Staff for student support for after school activities; Increased salary of \$500 for A. Negron for Black Seal; Volunteers for school play; Additions to the Substitute List..
Curriculum	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Field trips as detailed to the Board of Education.

Policy	<i>BOE had the first reading of the following policies/regulations:</i>		
	P 5512	Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying	Revised/Mandated
	P 9163	Spectator Code of Conduct for Interscholastic Events	New/Mandated
	<i>BOE had the second reading and adoption of the following policies/regulations:</i>		
	P 5533	Student Smoking	Revised/Mandated
	P 7441	Electronic Surveillance in School Buildings and On School Grounds	Revised/Mandated
	P & R 9320	Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies	Revised/Mandated
Old Business	none		
New Business	Mr. Venes attended a School Boards meeting, where they discussed HIB procedures. Mr. Hyman entered the motion to advertise an "RFP" for a Feasibility Study to explore the possibility of severing the send-receive relationship for its high school students and entering into such a relationship with another district, based on board discussions.		
Committee Reports	Dr. Guidici Pietro mentioned the PTO Spring Fundraiser will be taking place on 3/27. Mr. Hyman reported that the Send/Receive Committee met. Mrs. Schiano reported the Negotiations Committee met with the MEA to begin discussions and exchange proposals on the upcoming contract. Mr. Goodwin reported from the Finance/Buildings & Grounds Committee, discussing field use at BW and DF locker room work that may need to be done.		
Public Comments	A resident asked the board about the possibility of full day preschool, noting it could be appealing for working parents in the community. Mrs. Walling responded that since Covid, our space and costs have made it difficult to consider a program that is not mandated by the state. Mrs. Walling researched the costs to make it self-sustaining long term and recommended the board consider looking at ways to expand it only if it could be self-sustaining. The Board noted the budgetary constraints, and also the benefits of the full day program, and will consider their options.		

Our website: www.mountainsideschools.org

Please contact the office of the Mountainside BOE for additional information or questions: 908-232-8828