

Mountainside Board of Education

Meeting Highlights

March 11, 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 February 18, 2025 Minutes of the Executive Session of February 18, 2025 Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 26, 2025 Minutes of the Executive Session of the Special Meeting of February 26, 2025 Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 4, 2025 Minutes of the Executive Session of the Special Meeting of March 4, 2025
Correspondence	none
Public Participation	none
President's Report	Mrs. Pupo congratulated the students and staff for an outstanding performance at the school play
Superintendent's Report	Mrs. Walling congratulated students for their amazing performance and is looking forward to Teen Arts coming up. Class trips are gearing up in the spring. Professional development is taking place regarding new math and ELA standards. We celebrated Read Across America Week, with our Fire and Police Dept. guest readers, as well as our seniors, which builds upon our Strategic Plan for community involvement. It's been busy with budget preparations. She introduced Mrs. Rouleau who presented an overview from the Special Services Dept. Mrs. Rouleau gave a thorough look at our programs, supports, and services for special education students, staff, and families. The board thanked her and she answered their questions.
Business Administrator's Report	Mrs. Walling began the Preliminary Budget Presentation for the 2025-2026 school year. Mrs. Sullivan continued to report that preparations for the budget began in October. She went over the revenues and expenses, and reviewed how projections are planned and discussed with various departments. Mrs. Sullivan went over state-aid figures, health benefit increases, capital projects, tuition costs, and the tax levy. Mrs. Walling continued on the planned expansions and areas we will be able to maintain with the approval of this budget. Mrs. Sullivan reviewed the timeline for the budget approval and answered questions from the board. Mrs. Walling answered questions related to the repairs on the locker room pipes.
BH Liaison Report	none
Administration	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> HIB reports; Feb. Drill Reports.
Budget and Finance	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Budget transfers for Feb. 2025; Payment of the Bill Lists; Board Secretary Report for Feb. 2025; Tentative Budget Proposal for 25/26; Subscription busing for 25/26 at \$750; Addendum to cooperative wrestling agreement; G2 Athletics summer sports camps; Building use by Children's Specialized Hospital; Special Ed. placements/services ; School District Travel.

Personnel	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Post Severance contributions of sick/vacation days for Superintendent; Retirements of T. Schrul, Para, and J. Cardone, 3rd Gr. Teacher, effective 7/1/25; Maternity Leave of Absence for C. Yasinski; Appointment of I. Rigos as Para for 24/25 SY; Madison Duca for observation hours with S. Branco; Staff to supervise the school musical; Additions to the Stipend List; CST and ESY staff.		
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 5111	Eligibility of Resident/Non-Resident Students	Revised/Mandated
	P 8500	Food Services	Revised/Mandated
	<i>BOE had the second reading and adoption 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	
Old Business	none		
New Business	Dr. Guidici Pietro mentioned the PTO is still selling tickets for their spring fundraiser. She also thanked Mr. Rosenblum and the students for a wonderful performance of Shrek. Mrs. Walling was happy to have a great turnout for the MEA sponsored luncheon and performance for the seniors.		
Committee Reports	Mr. Goodwin reported that the Buildings & Grounds/Finance Committee reviewed the budget proposal, and was very pleased with the budget. He thanked Mrs. Sullivan for her hard work to get us here. Mrs. Schiano reported that the Curriculum Committee met and discussed the math track for 8th grade Algebra I and Geometry into high school. Mrs. Schiano also mentioned that the Negotiations Committee met with the MEA and are feeling positive about how negotiations are progressing; they have upcoming meetings to continue the discussions.		
Public Comments	Mikayla Whalen, a parent who is also president of the local Mountainside FC Soccer non-profit club, spoke up about lack of field space to use given increased enrollment numbers and demand for youth soccer. She would like to propose the area behind Beechwood to create a new field, and her organization would help to apply for grants and fundraise to maintain the field for the long-term. Alex Van Deusen, town councilman, also spoke in support of this proposal, and encouraged the board to consider it to support Mountainside children and families to have a local field to use. The board thanked her for sharing her concerns and asked some questions. The councilman will share an old proposal from 2015 with updated figures for this project. Mrs. Walling and members of the board clarified that the previous proposal was not a joint conversation between the board and the township, and they appreciate this conversation tonight. The councilman is also a parent who commented about bus transportation issues. Mrs. Sullivan commented that the nationwide driver shortage has created most of the problems and it is not due to the bus company making cuts. He stated that he hopes to have better communication about issues going forward.		

Our website: www.mountainsideschools.org

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