

# Mountainside Board of Education

## Meeting Highlights

### November 12, 2024



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"> <li>Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 15, 2024</li> <li>Minutes of the Executive Session of October 15, 2024</li> </ul>  |
| Correspondence                  | none   |
| Public Participation            | none   |
| President's Report              | Mrs Pupo thanked the community for voting to pass the public ballot question. She congratulated Mrs.Schiano and Mr. Hyman on their re-election to the board.   |
| Superintendent's Report         | Mrs. Walling thanked the community for supporting our schools in passing the public question. She noted on tonight's agenda are approvals for several staff to provide additional programming, as well as a 2nd day of mental health support. All reinstated and new positions have been advertised, and we hope to get these positions filled as soon as possible. Things have been very busy with PTO Trunk-or-Treat, and Halloween parades and parties. She thanked DF for their annual Veteran's Day celebrations. She noted the Patriot's Pen Essay winners were announced and will be recognized at the next board meeting. Mrs. Walling noted that a parent survey will go out tomorrow regarding high school programming feedback, as we are approaching the end of our current 10 yr. contract with BH which expires at the end of the 26/27 school year. Mrs. Walling mentioned that she was honored to attend the award ceremony with Mrs. Jenks and Mrs. Goldbeck in Washington D.C. She thanked the PTO and Mrs. Starling, Mrs. Tiscia, and Mrs. Keegan for spearheading the blue ribbon t-shirts for staff, and blue ribbons around the building. Mrs. Jenks is looking into vendors to memorialize our Blue Ribbon recognition of Deerfield permanently in some way. Finally she noted last week's conferences went well in both buildings. |
| Business Administrator's Report | Mrs. Sullivan introduced Kathi Mantell, partner at Nisivoccia, to present the audit report for the 2023-24 fiscal year and to answer any questions regarding the audit. She noted the C1 schedule and highlighted the fact that there is slightly less fund balance available for use in our 25/26 budget. There were no recommendations in the report and therefore, the board is just required to accept the audit.  |
| BH Liaison Report               | Mr. Hyman reported on the last 2 meetings. Meeting on 10/17 gave student activities updates, approved winter coaches, and gave sports updates. The new AD, CJ Hendricks started. There were NJSLA, Special Ed., and HIB presentations. There will be an AP course presentation on Thursday. There were facilities reports regarding field lighting, press box upgrades, and looking into outdoor lockers. Gyms were painted. At the Special meeting, they approved the new Superintendent, Dr. Kim Feltre, from Hillsborough, who will be starting January 1st, with a 3.5 year contract.  |
| Administration                  | <i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved for 24/25:</i><br>HIB Reports; 2023-2024 NJDOE School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act for BW and DF; School Safety and Security Plan Annual Review SOA; QSAC District Improvement Plan; New job description; Oct. Drill Reports.   |

|                           |  |                     |  |        |                 |                     |              |   |                     |        |            |                  |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------|--|--------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|---|---------------------|--------|------------|------------------|
| <b>Budget and Finance</b> | <b><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i></b><br>Budget transfers for Oct 2024; Payment of the Bill Lists; FY 2023-2024 audit, and submission of the A.C.F.R; Cooperative Pricing Agreements with Bergen County; Golden Arrow Transportation to provide transportation for the basketball season; Agreement with US Sports Institute, for use of BW facilities, at a cost of \$1,800; Agreement with CarePlus to provide In-District Counseling Services to add one more day/wk; School District Travel; Spec. Ed. placements and services; Agreement with G2 Athletics, LLC for after school basketball for BW students, Jan. 9th-Feb. 27th, at a cost of \$440.  |                     |  |        |                 |                     |              |   |                     |        |            |                  |
| <b>Personnel</b>          | <b><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i></b><br>Expanded hours of D. Carroll, Sp. Ed. Teacher, from part-time to full-time position, effective 11/4/24; Resignation of J. Araneo, Sp. Ed. Teacher; Resignation of S. Bradley, Media Specialist; Resignation of M. Carrillo, para; Resignation of F. Melo & D. Kessler, basketball coaches; Additions to Stipend List; Volunteers to assist with the middle school play; Additions to Substitute List; Notification to take classes from Jennifer Smith; Jada Forde, to the position of part-time paraprofessional.  |                     |  |        |                 |                     |              |   |                     |        |            |                  |
| <b>Policy</b>             | <b><i>BOE had the first reading of the following policies/regulations:</i></b><br><table border="1" data-bbox="344 541 1568 604"> <tr> <td data-bbox="344 541 545 604">P 5337</td> <td data-bbox="545 541 1219 604">Service Animals</td> <td data-bbox="1219 541 1568 604">Revised/Recommended</td> </tr> </table><br><b><i>BOE had the second reading and adoption of the following policies/regulations:</i></b><br><table border="1" data-bbox="344 667 1568 793"> <tr> <td data-bbox="344 667 545 730">Bylaw 0141.1</td> <td data-bbox="545 667 1219 730">Board Member Number and Term – Sending District</td> <td data-bbox="1219 667 1568 730">Revised/Recommended</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="344 730 545 793">R 5200</td> <td data-bbox="545 730 1219 793">Attendance</td> <td data-bbox="1219 730 1568 793">Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> </table> |                     |  | P 5337 | Service Animals | Revised/Recommended | Bylaw 0141.1 | Board Member Number and Term – Sending District | Revised/Recommended | R 5200 | Attendance | Revised/Mandated |
| P 5337                    | Service Animals  | Revised/Recommended |  |        |                 |                     |              |   |                     |        |            |                  |
| Bylaw 0141.1              | Board Member Number and Term – Sending District  | Revised/Recommended |  |        |                 |                     |              |   |                     |        |            |                  |
| R 5200                    | Attendance   | Revised/Mandated    |  |        |                 |                     |              |   |                     |        |            |                  |
| <b>Old Business</b>       | none   |                     |  |        |                 |                     |              |   |                     |        |            |                  |
| <b>New Business</b>       | The board changed the Reorganization meeting from January 7th to January 6th (tentatively) due to a conflict with the BH meeting.  |                     |  |        |                 |                     |              |   |                     |        |            |                  |
| <b>Committee Reports</b>  | Mrs. Walling noted a Strategic Planning meeting is upcoming on Thursday, with the goal having it ready for board approval in December.   |                     |  |        |                 |                     |              |   |                     |        |            |                  |
| <b>Public Comments</b>    | none   |                     |  |        |                 |                     |              |   |                     |        |            |                  |

Our website: [www.mountainsideschools.org](http://www.mountainsideschools.org)

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