

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

February 20, 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 6:34 p.m.

II. Roll Call

At roll call, the following members were present:

Mr. Bill Dillon

Dr. Dana Guidici Pietro - arrived after roll call at 6:40 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.

Mr. Michael Goodwin was absent.

III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

Moved: Mr. Hyman

Seconded: Mrs. Schiano

RC: Dillon - yes

Goodwin - absent

Guidici Pietro - absent 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 6:35 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>Dr. Guidici Pietro</u>	Seconded:	<u>Mrs. Schiano</u>		
RC:	Dillon -yes	Goodwin - absent	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>Mr. Hyman</u>		
RC:	Dillon -yes	Goodwin - absent	Guidici Pietro -yes	Hyman - yes	
	Pupo - yes	Schiano -yes	Venes -yes		

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 23, 2024
- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of January 23, 2024

VII. Correspondence - none

VIII. Public Participation - none

IX. President's Report - none

- X. **Superintendent's Report** - Mrs. Walling welcomed and recognized 2 Noetic Math students with Mrs. Crisafulli. 71 students participated from our District, and thousands more nationwide. Our 2 students scored in the top 10%, and received National Honor Roll recognition. Mrs. Walling continued with her SSDS Report, which covers HIB, Violence and Vandalism incidents, and was happy to report we had no HIB incidents the first half of the year. She continued to discuss our QSAC process, with the county office visiting on 2/22. She thanked her staff and committee for the preparation for this review. Mrs. Walling noted the well-attended and great basketball games for Spirit Night. She thanked Ms. Posner for all her planning to make it a success. The Little Mermaid cast has been rehearsing, getting ready for the spring musical. An afternoon of professional development was held for teachers with data dives, training for paraprofessionals on behavior support, and custodians with safety training.

- XI. **Business Administrator's Report** - Mrs. Sullivan introduced a representative from Nisivoccia to present the District audit. There were no findings that require recommendations. Kathy Mantell from Nisivoccia thanked Mrs. Sullivan and Mrs. Walling for cooperation to provide necessary information. She went on to review the highlights of the audit report.

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- XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report** - Mr. Hyman said there has been no meeting since our last meeting due to snow. The next meetings are 2/26 and 2/28. The county superintendent selected Gail Bradford as board president, but a VP has yet to be selected. They have various firms presenting to help run their superintendent search; a decision will be made soon.

XIII. Administration

Mrs. Walling noted that ESY will take place at Beechwood with all students in one building.

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Administration #1-5**

Moved: <u>Dr. Guidici Pietro</u>	Seconded: <u>Mr. Hyman</u>		
RC: Dillon -yes	Goodwin - absent	Guidici Pietro - yes	Hyman - yes
Pupo - yes	Schiano - yes	Venes -yes	

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Student Safety Data System (**SSDS**) Report, from September 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023, as reported to the NJ Department of Education. (Attachment #2)
2. **WHEREAS**, N.J.A.C. 6A: 23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicare Initiative (**SEMI**) Program for the 2024-2025 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Mountainside Board of Education, desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that the state projects having four Medicaid eligible classified students and is therefore not required to participate in SEMI.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountainside Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent to apply for the waiver with the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Union following submission of an appropriate waiver of the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3 for the 2024-2025 school year.

3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following dates and times for the Extended School Year (ESY) Program for Summer 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)

Times: 9:00 - 12:30

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs, Inc. to conduct therapy dog visits with small groups at Deerfield School for students in Grades 3-8 at no cost to the district. Tentative dates are March 19, 20, 26, and 27.

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5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools January 2024 safety and security drill reports. (Attachment #3)

XIV. **Budget and Finance**

Mr. Hyman noted that the Strategic Planning Committee met in January and determined they would use NJSBA to help with the preparation of the next 5-year strategic plan.

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-12**

Moved: Mr. Venes

Seconded: Mr. Hyman

RC: Dillon -yes
Pupo - yes

Goodwin - absent
Schiano - yes

Guidici Pietro - yes Hyman - yes
Venes -yes

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the months of January 2024. (Attachment #4)
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated January 25, 2024, through February 21, 2024. (Attachment #5)
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of January 2024 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the months of January 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 January 2024:

RESOLVED THAT, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the months of January 2024 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for January 2024 as submitted and certified. (Attachment #6)

4. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Mountainside Board of Education, accepts the FY 2022-2023 audit, and approves the submission of the A.C.F.R. (Annual Comprehensive Financial Report) as presented by the firm Nisivoccia.
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve an agreement with NJ School Boards Association (NJSBA), to lead the development of the District's next 5-Year Strategic Plan. (Attachment #7)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the joint transportation agreement with Westfield Public Schools, in the amount of \$8,000, from 2/14/24-6/20/24. (Attachment #8)
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the building use request with the Actor's Camp for building use at Deerfield School from July 1st - July 27th based on

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Policy 7510, priority 5, and a payment schedule totaling \$8,500, excluding additional overtime costs that may be incurred.

8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with G2 Athletics, LLC for Sports Camps open to Beechwood students, at costs as outlined under Tier 6 usage fees in district Policy 7510. (Attachment #9)

Club	Dates	G2 Usage Fees
Lacrosse Club (Gr. 1-2)	March 14-May 30	\$550
Spring Break Sports Camp (Gr. K-2)	Apr 2-4	\$825

9. **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 Admin. /Superintendent
Payroll	Valley Bank	Board President/Business Admin./Superintendent
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/Superintendent
DF School General Fund	Valley Bank	Deerfield Principal/Deerfield Secretary
DF Athletic Fund	Valley Bank	Deerfield Principal/Deerfield Secretary

** this is revised from previously approved list on January 23, 2024*

10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, special education placements and services as per (Attachment #10)
11. 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 #11). 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.

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12. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the building use request with Children's Specialized Hospital for building use at Deerfield School from 7/29/24 - 8/2/24 and 8/5/24-8/9/24 based on Policy 7510, priority 4, with a payment schedule totaling \$2,250, excluding additional overtime costs that may be incurred. This agreement is pending insurance and nonprofit documentation.

XV. Personnel

Mr. Hyman asked for clarification on item #4. Mrs. Walling responded.

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Personnel #1-4**

Moved: Mr. Hyman

Seconded: Dr. Guidiciopietro

RC: Dillon -yes Goodwin -absent Guidiciopietro - yes Hyman - yes
Pupo - yes Schiano - yes Venes -yes

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Maternity Disability Leave for **Stephanie DeBaun**, Kindergarten Teacher, effective March 29, 2024, until June 20, 2024. She will be permitted to utilize any accumulated sick days. Ms. DeBaun anticipates returning to work on September 1, 2024. She will determine unpaid Family Leave time at a later date in accordance with FMLA and NJFLA. (Attachment #12)
2. 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)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the notification to take classes from **Julie Lima**, Special Education Teacher, for classes taken at NJIDA WIFFT, for 2024 Sessions for Orton Gillingham certification hours, in the amount of \$210.00. (Attachment #14)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of the following to the 2023-2024 **Substitute Teacher List** pending paperwork and successful criminal background check (Attachment #15); and

Name	Certification	Rate
Scott Jonach	Sub cert 6/2026	\$115/day

the **removal** of the following from the 2023-2024 Substitute Teacher List:

Carla Rodrigues	Jaime Hibberson	Alexa Circelli	Victoria Wojcik
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XVI. Curriculum

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Curriculum #1**

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro Seconded: Mr. Hyman
RC: Dillon -yes Goodwin -absent Guidici Pietro - yes Hyman - yes
 Pupo - yes Schiano - yes Venes -yes

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

XVII. Policy

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

Moved: Mr. Hyman Seconded: Mrs. Schiano
RC: Dillon -yes Goodwin - absent Guidici Pietro - yes Hyman - yes
 Pupo - yes Schiano - yes Venes -yes

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

P 3324	Right of Privacy	New/Suggested
P 4324	Right of Privacy	New/Suggested
P 5116	Education of Homeless Children and Youths	Revised/Recommended

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

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

XVIII. Old Business - none

- XIX. New Business** - Mrs. Pupo mentioned the Senior Citizen viewing of our school musical will be March 7th, with a reception by the MEA beforehand at 4:00.

- XX. Committee Reports** - Dr. Guidici Pietro, PTO Liaison, reminded everyone to support the PTO Spring fundraiser on March 14th with all funds coming back to the school. Mr. Dillon mentioned a Finance Committee met to discuss the preliminary budget. State funding will be released on 2/29. Mrs. Pupo mentioned that the new Berkeley Heights committee had their first virtual meeting on 2/12 to begin looking at our send/receive agreement and they look forward to further discussions.

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XXI. Public Participation - none

XXII. Adjournment - Resolution (Attachment #1)

A motion was made by Dr. Guidici Pietro at 8:29 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Schiano to adjourn.
The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 6 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Sullivan
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary