

## Minutes of the Regular Meeting

May 13, 2025

# MOUNTAINSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

BEECHWOOD SCHOOL - 1497 WOODACRES DRIVE, MOUNTAINSIDE, NJ 07092

DEERFIELD SCHOOL - 302 CENTRAL AVENUE, MOUNTAINSIDE, NJ 07092

Click here for [agenda attachments](#) available to the public, or please contact the Mountainside Board of Education

Office at (908) 232-3232 or peruse the 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 Vivian Pupo, at 6:30 p.m.

### II. Roll Call

At roll call, the following members were present

Mr. Bill Dillon

Mr. Michael Goodwin

Dr. Dana Guidici Pietro

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.

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

Moved: Mrs. Schiano

Seconded: Dr. Guidici Pietro

RC: Dillon - yes

Goodwin - yes

Guidici Pietro - yes

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:

- Legal/personnel matters
- HIB Matter
- Negotiations

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 adjourns to executive session at 6:31 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: Mr. Dillon      Seconded: Mrs. Schiano

RC:      Dillon -yes      Goodwin - yes      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: Dr. Guidici Pietro      Seconded: Mr. Goodwin

RC:      Dillon - yes      Goodwin - yes      Guidici Pietro - yes  
         Hyman - abstain      Pupo - yes      Schiano - abstain      Venes - yes

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 29, 2025
- ❖ Minutes of the 1st Executive Session of April 29, 2025
- ❖ Minutes of the 2nd Executive Session of April 29, 2025

### **VII. Correspondence - none**

### **VIII. Public Participation - none**

### **IX. President's Report - none**

- X. Superintendent's Report** - Mrs. Walling introduced Mrs. Vierschilling who presented a Beechwood School Year-in-Review. Mr. Dillon commented about partnering with scouts for any wishlist projects that they may partner together on in the future. Mrs. Walling continued with the various school concerts, trips, and other activities going on in the spring. She thanked the staff and volunteers for making the 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C a success. Mr. Goodwin went on the trip and commented how organized it was and how students were well behaved. Mrs. Walling thanked Mrs. Goldbeck and Mrs. Crisafulli for all the work with NJSLA testing. She is hoping for nice weather for the end of the year activities. She shared the Self-Assessment for HIB reporting and that we are meeting our goals in both schools.

- XI. Business Administrator's Report** - Mrs. Sullivan reported that we have 3 seats on the board that are up for reelection in November, noting deadlines and information available on our website. She pointed out various contracts that are on the agenda for approval tonight as well.

- XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report** - Mr. Dillon reported on the last meeting and information on the Superintendent evaluation system, and that they are beginning talks about the 5-year Strategic Plan. He noted the BA is retiring, along with some other retirements, and some new hires as well.

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He noted GL graduation is June 18th. He mentioned the softball senior game will be held at Deerfield this week, and provided other spring sports updates.

### XIII. Administration

*Mr. Dillon asked about the Affirmative Action Team and the Comprehensive Equity Plan.*

*Mrs. Walling explained what it is about and that we had a waiver for a few years.*

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

Moved: Mr. Hyman

Seconded: Mrs. Schiano

RC: Dillon -yes

Goodwin - yes

Guidici Pietro - yes

Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes

Schiano - yes

Venes - yes

1. **WHEREAS**, on April 29, 2025 the Board of Education received a report from the superintendent containing the results of investigations conducted by each school regarding alleged incidents of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB); and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15(b)(6)(c) states, the report also includes information on services provided, training established, discipline imposed, or other action taken or recommended by the superintendent; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has considered the report presented by the superintendent.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education affirms that the findings of the investigation and the report comply with the district's HIB policies and procedures for the following HIB incidents:

Case #s: 242517, 242518, 242520, 242521

2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Lead Testing Program Statement of Assurance for 2025-2026 (Attachment #2)
3. Move to authorize the Mountainside School District's Affirmative Action Team to conduct a needs assessment and develop a Comprehensive Equity Plan for 2025-2026 through 2027-2028.
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools April 2025 safety and security drill reports.
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools Bus Evacuation Drill reports.

### XIV. Budget and Finance

*Mr. Hyman asked about the Solution Architecture project, to which Mrs. Sullivan responded. Other board members commented and Mrs. Sullivan explained some of the process for considering a referendum in the future. She answered other questions regarding food services, auditor, and the issues around item #9.*

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-23**

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Moved: Mr. Hyman

Seconded: Mr. Dillon

RC: Dillon -yes

Goodwin - yes

Guidici Pietro - yes

Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes

Schiano - yes

Venes - yes

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the month of April 2025. (Attachment #3)
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated May 1 2025, through May 15, 2025. (Attachment #4)
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of April 2025 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of April 2025; 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 April 2025:

**RESOLVED THAT**, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the month of April 2025 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for April 2025 as submitted and certified (Attachment #5)

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with Horizon to provide Dental Benefits from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, with rates per (Attachment #6).
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with IMAC Agency as the district's State Health Benefits Program Consultants from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, in the amount of \$30,000 and to approve the continuation in participation in the Health Program provided by the New Jersey State Health Benefits Act of the State of New Jersey (N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.26 and N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.46.2) and to authorize coverage for employees and their dependents thereunder in accordance with the statute and regulations adopted by the State Health Benefits Commission and/or School Employees' Health Benefits Commission.
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Berkeley Heights Governor Livingston High School General Education Tuition Agreement Contract for the 2025-2026 school year in the amount of \$4,211,400.00. (Attachment #7)
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Berkeley Heights Governor Livingston High School Resource Room Tuition Agreement Contract for the 2025-2026 school year in the amount of \$302,858.00. (Attachment #8)
8. **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.

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**WHEREAS**, the districts E-Rate Consultants, E2E Exchange solicited bids through a posted FCC Form 470 number 250003122 in accordance with E-Rate Program rules to initiate the competitive bidding process to solicit bids from vendors to replace firewall and license and

**WHEREAS**, the Technology Department reviewed the bids submitted to the district and hereby recommend that the Board approve the award of contract to Dyntek for a total cost of \$17,228.18, with \$5,753.05 of the total funded by erate

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mountainside School District approves the award of contract to Dyntek to replace the firewall and license for a total contract price to the district of \$11,475.13.

9. **WHEREAS**, the Board solicited public bids for sanitary upgrades at Deerfield School and

**WHEREAS**, one bid was received on April 29, 2025 and

**WHEREAS**, the bid received must be disqualified due to a material defect in the bid documents submitted

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Mountainside School district approves the rejection of the bid and authorizes rebidding the project with a different timeline for completion.

10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Architect of Record agreement with Solutions Architecture for the 2025-2026 school year; and to approve a facilities audit in the amount of \$27,600 and a capacity analysis in the amount of \$6,400 (Attachment #9 & 10).

11. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Mountainside School District, upon the recommendation of Dana Sullivan, Interim Business Administrator, hereby award and approve the extension of the contract with Maschio's Food Service for the 2025-2026 school year with a FSMC fixed price fee of \$10,962.35 with a guarantee return of \$1,000, total cost of contract is \$287,921.86. Approved student lunch prices for Elementary and Middle School is \$3.85.

12. **WHEREAS**, there exists a need for professional services in the specific area(s) of Audit Services; and

**WHEREAS**, funds are available for this purpose; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public School Contracts Law (NJSA 18A:18A-1 et seq.) permits the award of contracts without competitive bids for Professional Services that require licensing and are regulated by law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public School Contracts Law requires that the Board of Education adopt a resolution awarding such contracts at a public meeting.

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mountainside Board of Education, as follows:

1. The appointment of Kathi Mantell from the firm of Nisivoccia, LLP as Auditor for a fee not to exceed \$50,000.00 for the 2024-2025 school year audit.

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2. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" under the provisions of the Public School Contracts Law because Auditors are a recognized profession licensed and regulated by law. (Attachment #11)
13. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to contract with Strauss Esmay Associates, LLP for Policy Alert and Support System (PASS) and annual district online maintenance fee in the amount of \$4,915.00 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. (Attachment #12)
14. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to contract with Global Compliance Network, Inc. (GCN) for staff tutorials in the amount of \$1,680.00 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. (Attachment #13)
15. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an updated Field Maintenance Agreement between the Mountainside School District and Mountainside Softball Baseball League (MSBL). (Attachment #14)
16. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Rates and Other Services Agreement with Union County Educational Services Commission for 2025-2026 (Attachment #15)
17. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a parent transportation contract, in the amount of \$12,000, pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A: 39.1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A: 27-9.9, between the Mountainside Board of Education and the parent/legal guardians of **Student #15357 MSD** for 2025 ESY and RSY from 7/1/25-6/30/26.
18. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a parent transportation contract, in the amount of \$15,000, pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A: 39.1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A: 27-9.9, between the Mountainside Board of Education and the parent/legal guardians of **Student #81338899732** for RSY from 7/1/25-6/30/26.
19. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with Next Step Pediatric Therapy for physical therapy services and evaluations at a rate of \$97/hour, not to exceed \$27,160.00 for ESY 2025 and the 2025-2026 school year. (Attachment #16)
20. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with Care Plus to provide In-District Counseling Services to students and families referred by school district personnel for the 25/26 school year, 2 days per week in the amount of \$62,400. (Attachment #17)
21. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with The Original Hoopers, LLC for use of Deerfield facilities, at a total cost of \$475, per Tier 6 usage fees in district Policy 7510.
22. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, special education placements and services as per (Attachment #18).
23. Move to approve a joint transportation agreement between Springfield Public Schools and the Mountainside Board of Education for out-of-district transportation routes for the 2025-2026 school year. (Attachment #18A)

## **XV. Personnel**

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The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Personnel #1-7**

Moved: Mr. Goodwin

Seconded: Mr. Dillon

RC: Dillon -no #2, yes to #1, 3-7    Goodwin - yes    Guidici Pietro - yes  
Hyman - yes    Pupo - yes    Schiano - yes    Venes - yes

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the **certificated tenured personnel** list for the 2025-2026 school year. (Attachment #19)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the **certificated non-tenured personnel** list for the 2025-2026 school year. (Attachment #20)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the **affiliated non-certificated staff (secretaries and custodians)** list for the 2025-2026 school year. (Attachment #21)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of the **non-affiliated personnel**, effective July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. (Attachment #22)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of **paraprofessionals** for the 2025-2026 school year. (Attachment #23)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of part-time **lunch aides** for the 2025-2026 school year. (Attachment #24)
7. Move to accept upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of **Casey Johnson**, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor, effective July 1, 2025, and thank him for his time in the district. (Attachment #25)

### XVI. Curriculum

The following motion was approved by roll call vote: **Curriculum #1**

Moved: Mr. Hyman

Seconded: Mrs. Schiano

RC: Dillon -yes    Goodwin - yes    Guidici Pietro - yes  
Hyman - yes    Pupo - yes    Schiano - yes    Venes - yes

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, field trip(s) as detailed to the Board of Education.

### XVII. Policy

*Mr. Hyman commented on the changes to P5111, as discussed in committee.*

The following motion was approved by roll call vote: **Policy #1-2**

Moved: Mr. Venes

Seconded: Mrs. Schiano

RC: Dillon -yes    Goodwin - yes    Guidici Pietro - yes  
Hyman - yes    Pupo - yes    Schiano - yes    Venes - yes

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

P 5841	Secret Societies	Revised/Recommended
P 8110	Attendance Areas	New/Recommended

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

P 5111	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students	Revised/Mandated
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**XVIII. Old Business** - none

**XIX. New Business** - none

**XX. Committee Reports** - Mrs. Schiano commented on the Negotiations committee meetings with the MEA and the progress that has been made. Mr. Venes commented on the Union County School Boards meeting he attended.

**XXI. Public Participation** - none

**XXII. Adjournment**- Resolution (Attachment #1)

A motion was made by Mr. Venes at 8:40 p.m., seconded by Mr. Dillon, to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 7 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Sullivan  
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary