

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

May 14, 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 6:33 p.m.

II. Roll Call

At roll call, the following members were present:

- Mr. Bill Dillon
- Mr. Michael Goodwin
- Dr. Dana Guidiciopietro
- Mrs. Vivian Pupo
- Mrs.Candice Schiano - arrived at 7:35
- Mr. Carmine Venes

Also present were Janet Walling, Superintendent of Schools, and Dana Sullivan, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

Mr. Jordan Hyman was absent.

III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

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

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: Mr. Venes Seconded: Mrs. Schiano
RC: Dillon -yes Goodwin - yes Guidicipietro - yes Hyman - absent
 Pupo - yes Schiano - yes Venes -yes

The public meeting reconvened at 7:45 p.m.

V. Flag Salute

VI. Approval of Minutes

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

- ❖ Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 29, 2024
- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 30, 2024
- ❖ Minutes of the 1st Executive Session of April 30, 2024
- ❖ Minutes of the 2nd Executive Session of April 30, 2024

VII. Correspondence - none

VIII. Public Participation - none

IX. President’s Report - none

X. Superintendent’s Report - Mrs. Walling recognized 2 students who earned Honor Roll recognition by scoring in the top 10%, from the Noetic Math Competition and introduced Mrs. Crisafulli who gave details about the spring contest. Next, Mrs. Vierschilling presented a thorough Beechwood School Year-in-Review for the Board, and detailed the various SEL initiatives, clubs, curriculum, charitable events, and grade level traditions that happened over the year. The Board thanked her and commented. Mrs. Walling continued to share district updates on the recent concerts, trips, and NJSLA and benchmark testing. She noted Summer Learning Academy will continue this summer for AIM students and ESY will run at the same time. Mrs. Walling reported on the HIB self-assessment, and what that score encompasses. She is pleased that both schools scored very well. She reminded everyone that the Art Shows and Spring Concerts will be happening soon. 3rd Grade orientation is scheduled in June after school. Mr. Dillon commented about Noetic Math winners or academic winners to be recognized on banners or plaques, the way athletic team championships are recognized. Mrs. Walling said that she will explore options.

XI. Business Administrator's Report - Mrs. Sullivan commented on the upcoming request for a transfer of funds for rising transportation costs. She also wanted to point out the Maschio's renewal is on the agenda, with the same terms.

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XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report - none

XIII. Administration

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

Moved: Mr. Venes Seconded: Mr. Goodwin
RC: Dillon -yes Goodwin - yes Guidicipietro - yes Hyman - absent
 Pupo - yes Schiano - yes Venes -yes

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2024-2025 holidays for administrators and secretaries. (Attachment #2)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2024-2025 holidays for the Supervisor of Maintenance and Custodial Services, and custodians. (Attachment #3)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Lead Testing Program Statement of Assurance for 2023-2024 (Attachment #4)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve job description as attached. (Attachment #5)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools April 2024 safety and security drill reports. (Attachment #6)

XIV. Budget and Finance

Mr. Dillon asked about the budget and the transfer of revenue funds. Mrs. Sullivan responded. They discussed out-of-district transportation costs and coordinated services.

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-15**

Moved: Dr. Guidicipietro Seconded: Mrs. Schiano
RC: Dillon -yes Goodwin - yes Guidicipietro - yes Hyman - absent
 Pupo - yes Schiano - yes Venes -yes

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the month of April 2024. (Attachment #7)
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated May 1 2024, through May 15, 2024. (Attachment #8)
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of April 2024 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of April 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

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appropriation, as modified to date set forth in the level of detail contained in the Reports of the Board Secretary for April 2024:

RESOLVED THAT, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the month of April 2024 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for April 2024 as submitted and certified. (Attachment #9)

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a transfer from under budgeted revenue from interest earned on investments in the amount of \$120,000. This transfer will increase the 2023-24 budget to be used for the increased costs in transportation provided to students attending out of district placements. The Mountainside Board of Education certifies that this transfer is necessary to achieve the thoroughness standards for the current school year. The transfer will result in increasing the following accounts in the 2023-24 budget:

Interest on Investments	10-1510-000-000	\$120,000
Transp Svc - Cont - H/S SE	11-000-270-514-000-001	\$120,000

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, 2024 through December 31, 2024, in the amount of \$30,000. (Attachment #10)
6. 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 2024 and the 2024-2025 school year. (Attachment #11)
7. **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 2024-2025 school year with a FSMC fixed price fee of \$10,712.05 with a guarantee return of \$1,000, total cost of contract is \$285,275.21. Approved student lunch prices for Elementary and Middle School is \$3.65.
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Student Transportation Contract Renewal with Durham School Service for the 2024-2025 school year. (Attachment #12)
9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Student Transportation Contract Renewal with Durham School Service for the 2024-2025 school year for Union County Vo-Tech. (Attachment #13)
10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a parent transportation contract, in the amount of \$3,000, 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 #6489264549** for 2024 ESY.
11. 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

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online maintenance fee in the amount of \$4,965.00 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. (Attachment #14)

- 12. 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 2024-2025 fiscal year. (Attachment #15)
- 13. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, special education placements and services as per (Attachment #16).
- 14. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to authorize Federal Grant Amendments as follows:
 - a. Submission of an amended application for the 2022 American Rescue Plan (ARP ESSER III) grant. Budget accounts are reflected in Amendment I.
 - b. Submission of an amended application for the 2024 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) grant. Budget accounts including carryover are reflected in Amendment II.
- 15. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with Tri-County Behavioral Care to provide In-District Counseling Services to students and families referred by school district personnel for the 2024-25 school year, 1 day per week in the amount of \$30,000. (Attachment #16A)

XVII. Personnel

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Personnel #1-9**

Moved: Mrs. Schiano

Seconded: Mr. Venes

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

- 1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the retirement of **Thomas McGowan**, Beechwood Custodian, effective July 1, 2024, and thank him for his incredible 27 years of service to the Mountainside School District. (Attachment #16)
- 2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following requests to extend leaves of absence (Attachment #17):

Name	Position	LOA w/ pay & benefits	LOA unpaid with benefits (if applicable)	Extended LOA w/o pay or benefits	Return Date
N. Wong	PE/Health Teacher	n/a	n/a	May 6-17 2024	5/20/24

- 3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to extend the appointment of **Kirsten Post**, as PE Leave Replacement effective May 6, 2024 through June 19, 2024.

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4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a medical leave of absence for **Employee #90247511**, beginning May 14, 2024 through June 19, 2024.
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a medical leave of absence for **Employee #90163080**, beginning April 22, 2024 through May 15, 2024. **end date revised*
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following adjustments for paraprofessionals as follows beginning the week of April 15, 2024:

Staff Member	Additional work day:	Rate:
Lydra Shehu	Thursdays	\$27.22/hour
Teri Schrul	Fridays	\$28.30/hour

7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of the following to the 2023-2024 Substitute Teacher List:

Name	Certification	Rate
Grace Elliott (LTS)	Teacher Cert.	\$125/day

8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following temporary custodial workers for summer employment as outlined below, upon successful criminal background check and paperwork. (Attachment #18)

Name	Days	Rate	Approx. Total
Cole Williams	8 Weeks (July-Aug)	\$16.85/hr.	\$5,000
Ayden Negron	8 Weeks (July-Aug)	\$16.85/hr.	\$5,000

9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staffing for the 2024-2025 Summer Learning Academy from July 8, 2024 through August 1, 2024, Mondays through Thursdays, at rate of \$44.00/hour, not to exceed 4 hours per day. Program is supported through ARP Federal Grant Funding:

Holly Ambrose	Teresa Banks	Michelle Jamnik	Lori Topel
Michelle Cruz	Kelly Herscheit	Nicole Tyburski	Stephanie Mlynarczyk

10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **Lori Topel** as the Summer Learning Academy Coordinator, at a rate of \$44 per hour, not to exceed 15 hours. Cost will be supported through ARP Federal Grant funding.

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11. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the notification to take class and a request for tuition reimbursement for **Paige Primmer**, Special Education Teacher, for classes taken at Fairleigh Dickinson University for 2024 WIFFT Sessions for Orton Gillingham certification hours, in the amount of \$270.00. (Attachment #19)
12. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff for 2023-2024 School Year Stipend Positions, contingent upon student enrollment for those student activities subsidized in accordance with Board Policy 2436, Activity Participation Fee Program.

Staff Members	Position	Rate
Bryan Young	8th Grade Trip Chaperone	\$278 (3+ yr rate)
Axl Hirsch	8th Grade Trip Chaperone	\$278 (3+ yr rate)
Sarah Onore	8th Grade Trip Chaperone	\$278 (3+ yr rate)
Dan Kessler	8th Grade Trip Chaperone	\$278 (3+ yr rate)
Madison Phillips	8th Grade Trip Chaperone	\$265 (1-2 yr. rate)
Nina Woo	8th Grade Trip Chaperone	\$278 (3+ yr rate)
Jessica Goldstein	8th Grade Trip Chaperone	\$278 (3+ yr rate)
Caitlin Styles	8th Grade Trip Chaperone	\$278 (3+ yr rate)
Sonia Branco	8th Grade Trip Chaperone	\$278 (3+ yr rate)
Suzanne Jenks	8th Grade Trip Administrator	n/a

** and to rescind Vincent Stasio as chaperone previously approved on 8/8/23*

13. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Child Study Team Staffing for meetings, evaluations, and case management effective June 20, 2024 to August 31, 2024.

Name	Assignment	Rate	Not to Exceed
Amanda Somers-Guerrasio	School Psychologist (for meetings/evaluations)	\$44.00/hour	NTE 50 hours
Eileen D'Antonio	School Social Worker (for meetings/evaluations)	\$44.00/hour	NTE 50 hours

14. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staffing of the 2024-2025 ESY Program from July 1, 2024 through August 1, 2024, from 9:00-12:30, as detailed below:

2024- 2025 ESY July 1st – August 1st, 2024

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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)

Salary based on MEA staff contract
ESY Special Education Teachers

Name	Position	Salary/Hour
Stephanie Cuccio	Special Education Teacher	\$44.00/hour
Lauren Kushner	Special Education Teacher	\$44.00/hour
Leila Morrelli	Speech-Language Therapist	\$44.00/hour

15. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of **Marilyn Nacci**, Paraprofessional, effective May 30, 2024, and thank her for her dedication to the Mountainside School District. (Attachment #20)

XVIII. Curriculum

**Mr. Dillon asked about the increased bus quote, to which Mrs. Walling responded.*

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

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro

Seconded: Mrs. Schiano

RC: Dillon -yes Goodwin -yes Guidici Pietro - yes Hyman - absent

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.

XIX. Policy

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

Moved: Mr. Goodwin

Seconded: Mrs. Schiano

RC: Dillon -yes Goodwin - yes Guidici Pietro - yes Hyman - absent

Pupo - yes Schiano - yes Venes -yes

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

P 2411	Guidance Counseling	Revised/Mandated
P 2423	Bilingual Education	Revised/Mandated

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P 2431.4 R 2431.4	Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries	Revised/Mandated
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XX. Old Business - none

XXI. New Business - Mr. Venes was at the county meeting last week, and commented that other local districts are having similar budget issues.

XXII. Committee Reports - none

XXIII. Public Participation - none

XXIV. Adjournment

A motion was made by Dr. Guidiciopietro at 8:45 p.m., seconded by Mr. Goodwin to adjourn
The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 6 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Sullivan
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary