

January 4, 2022



Mountain Lakes School District
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MOUNTAIN LAKES BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

January 4, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:34p.m. by Mr. Ferreira

MINUTES

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Mountain Lakes Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the Mountain Lakes Municipal Building and sent to the following newspapers: *The Daily Record, The Citizen, and the District Website.*

CERTIFICATION OF ANNUAL ELECTION – REPORT OF BOARD SECRETARY

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education have the Statement of Determination, dated November 15, 2021, of the 2021 School Election as certified by the Morris County Board of Elections made part of the annual organization meeting minutes, as read by the Board Secretary.

<u>THREE-YEAR TERM (3)</u>	<u>Total Votes</u>
Meghan Leininger	862
Aruni Singamkutti Arachchige Don	894
Write-In	861 (Erinn Tucker received 326)

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR
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OATH OF OFFICE

Board Secretary administers Oath to newly elected Board Member:

Meghan Leininger
Aruni Singamkutti Arachchige Don
Erinn Tucker

ROLL CALL

Board Member	Present	Absent
Dr. Don	X	
Dr. Driscoll	X	
Dr. Hirschfeld	X	
Ms. Leininger	X	
Ms. Lewis	X	
Mrs. Parker (<i>Vice President</i>)	X	
Mrs. Tucker	X	
BT Representative		X
Mrs. Barkauskas (<i>President</i>)	X	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Secretary, Mr. Ferreira lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Board President

Mr. Ferreira declared nominations for President to be open

RESOLVED, to nominate Mrs. Barkauskas for President

Dr. Hirschfeld nominated Mrs. Barkauskas for office of President

Additional Nominees: None

RESOLVED, nominations for office of President were closed and the motion carried 7-0-1 (Mrs. Barkauskas abstained)

Discussion or comment: None

At this time in the meeting the newly elected President took her seat

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Board Vice President

Mr. Ferreira declared nominations for Vice President to be open

RESOLVED, to nominate Mrs. Parker for Vice President

Dr. Hirschfeld nominated Mrs. Parker for office of Vice President

Additional Nominees: None

RESOLVED, nominations for Vice President were closed and the motion carried 8-0-0

Discussion or comments: None

At this time in the meeting the newly elected Vice President took her seat

BOARD PRESIDENT STATEMENT

Mrs. Barkauskas:

- Welcomed attendees to our Board meeting
- Thanks to the Board for trust and support
- Looking forward to working with the Board and Administration

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION to enter into Executive Session was made Dr. Hirschfeld and seconded by Dr. Driscoll, that the Board of Education adopt the following resolution.

The motion was approved 8-0-0

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mountain Lakes Board of Education on this 4th day of January 2022 at 6:49p.m. as follows:

1. The Board shall recess to closed session in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b (1), (2), (6), (7) and (8). The general nature of the discussion:

Matters of personal confidentiality rights, including but not limited to staff and/or student discipline matters, and specifically: privacy, personnel matters, and Board vacancy interview

2. These matters will be disclosed to the public as soon as the need for confidentiality no longer applies.

3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

MOTION, to leave executive session at 7:59p.m. was made by Dr. Hirschfeld and seconded by Dr. Driscoll.

The motion was approved 8-0-0 and the Board returned to public session at 7:59p.m.

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPORT - None

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM THE MLEA PRESIDENT - None

PRESENTATIONS - None

BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT - None

SUPERINTENDENT / ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

Mr. Fetherman and Dr. Bangia reviewed the following:

- Mr. Fetherman welcomed new Board members and gave an update on the Board vacancy
- Mr. Fetherman reviewed COVID update and staffing concerns
- Dr. Bangia reviewed Strategic Planning update and next steps
- Dr. Bangia reviewed the next Rutgers SEL program on January 25th
- Dr. Bangia reviewed access to LinkIt on the Parent Portal
- Mr. Fetherman reminded everyone about the Superintendent Coffee Talks

SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Mr. Ferreira reviewed the following:

- Housekeeping on Code of Ethics and upcoming Oath of Office for new Board members
- Upcoming committee meetings

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS

J. Denooyer

- Commented on AP testing and possibility of having electives
- Question on when Mr. Searles will be back to look at progress
- Question on moving Board vacancy interviews to public session

L. Cipriani

- Question on when Superintendent update will be available online
- Question on resolution #6 and need for back up
- Question on policy for political action on campus

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Ms. Lewis and seconded by Dr. Hirschfeld

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following meeting minutes:

Date	Minutes
December 6, 2021	Regular and Executive Session Minutes

Roll call vote 6-0-2 (Dr. Don and Mrs. Tucker abstained)

COMMUNICATIONS - None

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BOONTON TOWNSHIP REPORT - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2022 Committees Pending

Mrs. Barkauskas asked Board members for committee preferences within the next couple of days

LIAISON REPORTS - None

2022 Liaisons Pending

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR / BOARD SECRETARY

A. REORGANIZATION

5. 2022 School Board of Education Meeting Calendar

Motion to amend motion by Dr. Hirschfeld and seconded by Dr. Driscoll

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education will hereby hold and advertise their regular meetings for the 2022 calendar year and the 2023 reorganization meeting, in the Media Center or Auditorium at the Mountain Lakes High School or virtually at 6:30pm as follows, as recommended by the Superintendent, and with the edit to January 20th as discussed:

Tuesday, January 4, 2022
Thursday, January 20, 2022 (formerly January 18, 2022)
Monday, February 7, 2022
Monday, March 7, 2022
Monday, March 21, 2022 (<i>Adopt tentative Budget</i>)
Monday, April 4, 2022
Monday, May 2, 2022 (<i>Public Budget Hearing & Adoption</i>)
Monday, May 16, 2022
Monday, June 6, 2022
Monday, June 20, 2022
Monday, July 18, 2022
Monday, August 15, 2022
Tuesday, September 6, 2022
Monday, September 19, 2022
Monday, October 3, 2022
Monday, October 17, 2022
Monday, November 7, 2022
Monday, November 21, 2022
Monday, December 5, 2022
Tuesday, January 3, 2023 (<i>Reorganization Meeting</i>)

Roll call vote 5-0-3 (Abstained: Ms. Leininger, Mrs. Tucker, Mrs. Barkauskas)

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR
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1. Code of Ethics for School Board Members

Motion by Dr. Hirschfeld and seconded by Dr. Driscoll

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education adopts the Code of Ethics for School Board members, as recommended by the Superintendent:

A School board member shall abide by the following Code of Ethics for School Board Members: (each member reads one aloud)

- a. I will uphold and enforce all laws, rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes shall be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.
- b. I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools that meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex, or social standing.
- c. I will confine my board action to policy making, planning, and appraisal, and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the board has consulted those who will be affected by them.
- d. I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow board members, to see that they are well run.
- e. I will recognize that authority rests with the board of education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action that may compromise the board.
- f. I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.
- g. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. In all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its school.
- h. I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.
- i. I will support and protect school personnel in the proper performance of their duties.
- j. I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on the complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

Roll call vote 8-0-0

2. Morris County School Boards and New Jersey School Boards

Motion by Dr. Hirschfeld and seconded by Dr. Driscoll

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approves the appointment to Morris County School Boards Association and New Jersey School Boards Association, move that the President be directed to appoint a Delegate and an Alternate to the Morris County School Boards Association and the New Jersey School Boards Association, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Roll call vote 8-0-0

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3. Parliament of Procedures

Motion by Dr. Hirschfeld and seconded by Dr. Driscoll

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education adopt Robert Rules of Order as the official parliamentary procedure manual to be used to conduct meetings and appoint the board secretary and the board attorney to act as the parliamentarians for the 2022 calendar year, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Roll call vote 8-0-0

4. Authorized Signatures / Annual Appointments

Motion by Dr. Hirschfeld and seconded by Dr. Driscoll

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education extends the following appointments and authorized signatures for the following accounts for the period of January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022, as recommended by the Superintendent:

Board Secretary	Mr. Alex Ferreira
Acting Board Secretaries	Mr. Michael Fetherman, Mrs. Lisa Hogan
Treasurer of School Monies	Mr. Timothy Roberts
Custodian Of Records	Mr. Alex Ferreira
OPRA Officer	Mr. Alex Ferreira
Qualified Purchasing Agent	Mr. Alex Ferreira
Authorized Signatures General	Mr. Alex Ferreira, Board President (TBD), Mr. Timothy Roberts
Authorized Signature Payroll Account	Mr. Timothy Roberts
Pre-Payment Authorization	Mr. Alex Ferreira, Mr. Michael Fetherman
District Physician	Dr. Arnold Pally, Changebridge Medical Associates
District Engineer	Anderson & Denzler Associates, Inc.
District Attorney	Fogarty & Hara, ESQS
District Insurance	USI Insurance Services
Depositories for School Funds	Lakeland Bank
Official Newspapers	The Daily Record, The Citizen
Claims Auditor	Mr. Alex Ferreira

Roll call vote 8-0-0

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5. 2022 School Board of Education Meeting Calendar

Motion by Dr. Hirschfeld and seconded by Dr. Driscoll

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education will hereby hold and advertise their regular meetings for the 2022 calendar year and the 2023 reorganization meeting, in the Media Center or Auditorium at the Mountain Lakes High School or virtually at 6:30pm as follows, as recommended by the Superintendent:

Tuesday, January 4, 2022
Thursday, January 20, 2022
Monday, February 7, 2022
Monday, March 7, 2022
Monday, March 21, 2022 <i>(Adopt tentative Budget)</i>
Monday, April 4, 2022
Monday, May 2, 2022 <i>(Public Budget Hearing & Adoption)</i>
Monday, May 16, 2022
Monday, June 6, 2022
Monday, June 20, 2022
Monday, July 18, 2022
Monday, August 15, 2022
Tuesday, September 6, 2022
Monday, September 19, 2022
Monday, October 3, 2022
Monday, October 17, 2022
Monday, November 7, 2022
Monday, November 21, 2022
Monday, December 5, 2022
Tuesday, January 3, 2023 <i>(Reorganization Meeting)</i>

Roll call vote 7-1-0 (Mrs. Barkauskas voted Ney)

6. Strauss Esmay Policy and Regulations Manual

Motion by Dr. Hirschfeld and seconded by Dr. Driscoll

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education re-approves and adopts the existing policies and regulations included in the Strauss Esmay Policy and Regulations Manual, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Roll call vote 8-0-0

*APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR
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7. Doctrine of Necessity

Motion by Dr. Hirschfeld and seconded by Dr. Driscoll

WHEREAS, the School Ethics Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq. was enacted by the New Jersey State Legislature to ensure and preserve public confidence in school board members and school administrators and to prove specific ethical standards to guide their conduct; and WHEREAS, questions have arisen regarding how a Board should invoke the Doctrine of Necessity when a quorum of a board of education has conflicts of interest on a matter required to be voted upon; and

WHEREAS, the School Ethics Commission has provided some guidance in Public Advisory Opinion A03-98 (April 1, 1998) but finds that there is a need to repeat and clarify its opinion; and

WHEREAS, the opinion set forth that, when it is necessary for a Board to invoke the Doctrine of Necessity, the Board should state publicly that it is doing so, the reason that such action is necessary and the specific nature of the conflicts of interest; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with the Legislative purpose as set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:12-22(a) the School Ethics Commission views public disclosure of conflicts of interest to be paramount when it is necessary to invoke the Doctrine of Necessity.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the School Ethics Commission hereby requires Boards of Education that must invoke the Doctrine of Necessity to adopt a resolution setting forth that they are invoking the Doctrine, the reason for doing so and the specific nature of the conflicts of interest; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Boards of Education that invoke the Doctrine are directed to read the resolution at a regularly scheduled public meeting, post it where it posts public notices for thirty (30) days and provide the Commission with a copy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission shall distribute this Resolution to the county superintendents for distribution to the school districts, the New Jersey School Boards Association, the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, the New Jersey Association of School; Business Officials and the New Jersey Education Association, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Roll call vote 8-0-0

B. FINANCE

8. Budget Transfers

Motion by Dr. Hirschfeld and seconded by Dr. Driscoll

BE IT RESOLVED, that the chief school administrator be designated to approve such line item budget transfers as necessary between Board of Education meetings, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such transfers shall be reported to the Board of Education, ratified and duly recorded in the minutes of such meeting not less than monthly, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Roll call vote 8-0-0

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B. MISCELLANEOUS

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. PERSONNEL

9. Appointments / Amendments/ Resignations / Rescission / Retirements / RIF's

Motion by Dr. Hirschfeld and seconded by Ms. Leininger

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following appointments, amendments, resignations, rescissions, retirements and RIFs, for all regular employees with base pay, be approved, as recommended by the Superintendent:*

Name	Action	UPC	Position	Location	FTE	Degree/ Step	Rate of Pay	Start Date	Term Date
Niewood, Elizabeth	Revise Appointment	SPT- LR- SLS-04	Speech Language Specialist	LD	1.0	MA Step 4	\$72,395 (pro-rated)	2/15/22 or sooner pending completion of paperwork	
Wachter, Marc	Resignation	SUPV- DIST- TECH- 01	IT Director	District	1.0		\$135,000	8/16/2021	2/14/22 or sooner
Santos, David	Appointment	SUPV- DIST- TECH- 01	IT Director	District	1.0		\$140,000	1/31/22 or sooner pending completion of paperwork	

Roll call vote 8-0-0

B. CURRICULUM / SPECIAL SERVICES

10. Curriculum Approval

Motion by Dr. Hirschfeld and seconded by Ms. Leininger

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approves the curriculum for grades K – 12, pursuant to Policy #0154, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Roll call vote 8-0-0

C. MISCELLANEOUS

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Board Member

Motion by Mrs. Barkauskas and seconded by Ms. Lewis

WHEREAS, the Mountain Lakes Board of Education (“Board”) is comprised of ten members; and

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2021, Ms. Jennifer Scarpati resigned as a member of the Board effective November 8, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary received petitions for said vacancy by December 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Board interviewed the candidate for said vacancy on January 4, 2022; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the appointment of Dr. Lauren Silva McIntyre, to the Mountain Lakes Board of Education, to fill the vacancy to the reorganization meeting of January 2023.

Roll call vote 8-0-0

PENDING LEGISLATION - None

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM THE PUBLIC

E. Goldthwaite

- Congratulations to new Board members and Board officers

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION to enter into Executive Session was made by Mrs. Parker and seconded by Ms. Lewis, that the Board of Education adopt the following resolution.

The motion was approved 8-0-0

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mountain Lakes Board of Education on this 4th day of January, 2022 at 9:34p.m. as follows:

1. The Board shall recess to closed session in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b (1), (2), (6), (7) and (8). The general nature of the discussion:

Matters of personal confidentiality rights, including but not limited to staff and/or student discipline matters, and specifically: legal matters

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2. These matters will be disclosed to the public as soon as the need for confidentiality no longer applies.

3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

MOTION, to leave executive session at 10:07p.m. was made by Dr. Hirschfeld and seconded by Dr. Driscoll
The motion was approved 8-0-0 and the Board returned to public session at 10:07p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 10:08p.m. was made by Dr. Hirschfeld and seconded by Mrs. Tucker.

The motion was approved 8-0-0 and the Board returned to adjourn at 10:08p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alex Ferreira

School Business Administrator / Board Secretary

(MLHS): The areas of permitted voting for the Boonton Township district representative of the Board of Education are:
(a) Tuition to be charged the sending district by the receiving district and the bill lists or contracts for the purchase, operation or maintenance of facilities, equipment and instructional materials to be used in the education of the pupils of the sending district; (b) New capital construction to be utilized by sending district pupils; (c) Appointment, transfer or removal of teaching staff members providing services to pupils of the sending district, including any teaching staff member who is a member of the receiving district's central administrative staff; (d) Addition or deletion of curricular and extracurricular programs involving pupils of the sending district; (e) Any matter directly involving the sending district pupils or programs and services utilized by those pupils; (f) Approval of the annual receiving district budget; (g) Any collectively negotiated agreement involving employees who provide services utilized by agreement, if those employees provide or oversee programs or services utilized by sending district pupils; and (i) Any matter concerning governance of the receiving district board of education including, but not limited to, the selection of the board president or vice-president, approval of board bylaws, and the services to the receiving district board of education.

*: *Indicates a motion/resolution will have supporting documentation*