



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

January 13, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Mrs. Barkauskas

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 (www.mlschools.org)*.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board President, Mrs. Barkauskas will lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

| Board Member | Present | Absent |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| Mr. Chiang, Jr. | X (arrived at 7:10pm) | |
| Dr. Don | X | |
| Mrs. Forman | X | |
| Dr. Hirschfeld | X | |
| Mr. Johnson | X | |
| Dr. McIntyre | | X |
| Mrs. Parker (<i>Vice President</i>) | | X |
| Dr. Sheth | X | |
| Mrs. Barkauskas (<i>President</i>) | X | |

Also present: Dr. Brad Siegel, Dr. James Riley, Mrs. Ivonne Ciresi

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education enter into Executive Session was made by Dr. Hirschfeld and seconded by Dr. Don, that the Board of Education adopt the following resolution.

District roll call 6-0-0

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mountain Lakes Board of Education on this 13th day of January 2025 at 6:35pm 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 including matters of personal confidentiality rights, including but not limited to staff and/or student discipline matters, specifically: personnel, and confidentiality.

2. These matters will be disclosed to the public as soon as the need for confidentiality no longer applies. Although the Board cannot guarantee it, the length of the Executive Session is estimated to be 60 minutes after which the public meeting of the Board shall reconvene and proceed with business. Action may take place.

3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

MOTION, to leave executive session at 7:35pm was made by Mr. Chiang, and seconded by Mrs. Forman.

The motion was approved 7-0-0 and the Board returned to public session at 7:35pm.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPORT

Mr. John Daniel reviewed events from each school:

Briarcliff

- For the month of December, Briarcliff chose to focus on and recognize students who have demonstrated LEADERSHIP. Congratulations to the following students:
 - i. Grade 6: Grant McIntyre
 - ii. Grade 7: Andrew Sandman
 - iii. Grade 8: Khalil Tbati and Austin Johnson
- In mid-December, seven of our Robotics teams competed in an intense five hour Robotics competition, showcasing their hard work, creativity, and technical expertise. The event brought together over 80 teams, and we are thrilled to share some incredible results:
 - i. Team P (composed of Nathaniel Wong and Gavin Kolonne) placed in the Top Five of the Skills Competition, a remarkable achievement against fierce competition!
 - ii. Team J (composed of Jeffrey He and Plato Yi) came in first place in the Teamwork Division - an amazing accomplishment!
- We are so proud of all our teams for their outstanding efforts and representation at the competition. Congratulations to everyone involved, and thank you for making our Robotics program shine on such a competitive stage!
- Congratulations to Ms. Kemp, Mr. Buzzelli, & Ms. Petrucci for an awesome Winter Concert on Tuesday night. As always, our students performed well above a normal middle school level and put everyone in the gym into the holiday spirit. Our Music Department works very hard to prepare our students and it clearly showed. We thank them all for their commitment and dedication to our Music and Arts Programs.
- The Briarcliff Newspaper Club's December edition is [here!](#) This month's edition is "My Ten".
- The votes are in for our Door Decorating Contest! Congratulations to the following homerooms for being recognized in these categories:
 - i. Most Festive: Room 206, Mrs. Ebersole
 - ii. Best Overall Design: Room 108, Mrs. Major and Mrs. Fleming
 - iii. Most Creative: Room 103, Mrs. Doolittle
 - iv. Most Colorful: Room 203A, Mrs. DeRocco

v. Originality:

Rooms 8 and 9, Mr. Lih and Mrs. Pecarific

vi. The Last Minute:

Room 101, Mr. Walters

- o Earlier this week, several teachers volunteered to visit Sparta Middle School to observe their STEM program yesterday. Mrs. Doolittle, Mrs. Gaffney, Mrs. Major, and Mrs. Peterson visited Sparta Middle School to learn about the curriculum, activities, lessons, and the structure of the classroom. We are so grateful to Sparta for opening up their program to us to collaborate and learn.
- o Briarcliff Lake Drive teacher, Nicole Verduin, has organized a few fundraisers to help support four of our hardworking students who will participate in the RIT/NTID Math Competition in March. This event allows our students to compete against their deaf and hard-of-hearing peers from across the country, offering a unique and enriching experience. Our students have been working very hard to prepare for this competition, and we are so proud of their efforts! Fundraiser details are as follows:
 - i. Currently there is a T-shirt fundraiser from January 3-24, [Click Here to Purchase](#) or email Nicole Verduin for assistance.
 - ii. There will be a fundraiser at the Chipolte in Parsipanny on February 5 from 4p-8p. [Click Here for the Flyer](#). Bring the flyer with you to Chipolte!

Lake Drive

- o Students enjoyed shopping for their families holiday gifts at our Holiday shop
- o All the classes performed at our Winter Show. Thank you to all the families who came to cheer for their favorite classes.
- o The highlight of the month was signing Santa and Mrs. Claus visiting Lake Drive School. The entire school watched as they arrived on a Fire Truck. Each student had a chance to chat with Santa.
- o The school had a Character Ed Assembly on Friday, 1/10. The theme this year is "Making Good Choices".
- o Classes are looking forward to celebrating the 100 day of school which is quickly approaching.

MLHS

- o Congratulations to our Debate Team President, Ethan Wu, for his outstanding performance at the John Edie Holiday Debates! Ethan achieved an impressive 5-1 record in the preliminary rounds, earning the 14th seed out of 101 participants. He advanced to the octofinals (top 16) before engaging in a close debate against the eventual champion.
- o The MLHS Academic Team participated in the Valley Cup tournament, with team members Andrew Matty, Jacob Lakoff, and Owen Hatton delivering a strong performance. Notably, Andrew Matty distinguished himself as the tournament's 4th highest individual scorer.
- o Congratulations to Jessie Liu for an outstanding achievement on both the AMC 10A and AMC 10B exams at Rutgers University! Jessie earned the prestigious "Honor Roll of Distinction," placing in the top 1% for both exams, and also qualified for the AIME. Way to go, Jessie!
- o Congratulations to Thomas Berei, William Berei, and Isabella Marotta for their outstanding auditions and acceptance into the NJSMA Region 1 Symphonic Band! Well Done!
- o The Student Government Association (SGA) is thrilled to announce this year's Great Gatsby-Themed Winter Formal, which will be held on Saturday from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the high school. The event is open to all Mountain Lakes students in grades 9-12, with a ticket cost of \$25 per attendee. Students must arrive no later than 7:30 PM and may not leave before 9:00 PM and Backpacks and bags are not permitted at the dance. Students interested in attending should pick up a Winter Formal Contract or Guest Contract from the Main Office. Completed contracts and payment must be submitted to the Main Office by this Wednesday.

Wildwood

- o We held our annual Holiday sing-a-long in the gym right before the break. Students, led by Ms. Olearchik and joined by the entire Wildwood staff, sang Holiday classics together. As an added bonus, all students sat with their Linking Laker buddies!

- Kindness week is coming up during the week of January 20-24, and we will be having a Spirit Week to celebrate the events. Parents were notified of the events via a flyer sent home in the weekly update.
- Students in the building are taking part in our mid-year benchmark assessments in reading and math. Students and staff are both working so hard to show their progress!

MOUNTAIN LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENT COMMENT - None

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM THE MLEA CO-PRESIDENTS

- Mr. Mike Alves commented that he is proud to honor the GEOY teachers and support staff

PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Siegel introduced the following presentations:

- Introduction to Linking Lakers, by Mr. Higgins, Ms. Liberato, WW students
- Governor's Educator of the Year Award Recognition, by Dr. Siegel & Mrs. Ciresi
 - Wildwood
 - Amal Hussein - Teacher of the Year
 - Sara Falk - Educational Service Professional of the Year
 - MLHS
 - Suzanne Alese - Teacher of the Year
 - Paul Bongiorno - Educational Service Professional of the Year
 - Lake Drive
 - Ms. Kim Franklin - Teacher of the Year
 - Mrs. Sharon Wendler - Educational Service Professional of the Year
 - Briarcliff
 - Christina Doolittle - Teacher of the Year
 - Marissa Fleming - Educational Services Professional of the Year

BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT - None

SUPERINTENDENT / ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

- Dr. Siegel will provide midyear update at Feb meeting

SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - None

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS - None

COMMUNICATIONS - None

BOONTON TOWNSHIP REPORT

- Mr. Johnson reviewed:
 - RVS VP leaving district; Director of Special Services becoming Principal
 - New RVS website is live
 - Grade 8 field trip to Bueller Center
 - 3 students into Area Band

- ML teacher provided Canvas training

COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

- Special Education Committee – Mr. Chiang gave updates to DOE surveys

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR / BOARD SECRETARY

A. FINANCE

- Dr. Riley reviewed:
 - Finance agenda resolutions and hand carry(s)

Motion by Dr. Hirschfeld and seconded by Dr. Sheth for motions #1 – #10, #23(HC), #24(HC)

1. Presentation of Bills

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following bills list and check journals as of November 27, 2024 – December 31, 2024, as recommended by the Superintendent.*

| Fund | Amount |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| General Fund (10) | \$1,423,826.54 |
| Special Revenue Fund (20) | \$126,857.67 |
| Capital Project Fund (30) | \$444,447.63 |
| Debt Service Fund (40) | N/A |
| Cafeteria Account Fund (60) | \$219,827.87 |
| Total | \$2,214,959.71 |

District Roll Call 6-0-1 (A:P. Sheth)

2. Budget Transfers

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve and authorize the School Business Administrator / Board Secretary’s action of making budgetary transfers pursuant to the attached November Transfer Report, as recommended by the Superintendent.*

District Roll Call 6-0-1 (A:P. Sheth)

3. Treasurer’s Report

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the Treasurer’s Reports for the month ending November, as recommended by the Superintendent.*

District Roll Call 6-0-1 (A:P. Sheth)

4. Board Secretary’s Report

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the Board Secretary’s Report for the month ending November, as recommended by the Superintendent.*

District Roll Call 6-0-1 (A:P. Sheth)

5. Nonresident Tuition

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following enrollment, as recommended by the Superintendent:

| Action | Student ID | School-Program | Start Date | End Date | Tuition | Extra Services |
|-----------|------------|----------------------|------------|----------|-------------|----------------|
| New | IBB-3 | Lake Drive Itinerant | 1/6/25 | 6/30/25 | \$3,780 | |
| New | Temp-3 | Lake Drive Regular | 1/2/25 | 6/30/25 | \$47,033.32 | |
| New | Temp-4 | Lake Drive Regular | 12/16/24 | 6/30/25 | \$49,338.87 | |
| New | Temp-5 | Lake Drive Regular | 12/16/24 | 6/30/25 | \$49,338.87 | |
| New | Temp-6 | Lake Drive Regular | 12/16/24 | 6/30/25 | \$47,033.32 | |
| Change | IHT-2 | Lake Drive Itinerant | 1/2/25 | 6/30/25 | \$2,880 | |
| Change | IHP-20 | Ivy Hall Preschool | 1/2/25 | 6/30/25 | \$10,128 | |
| Change | IHP-21 | Ivy Hall Preschool | 1/2/25 | 6/30/25 | \$10,128 | |
| Change | IHP-22 | Ivy Hall Preschool | 1/2/25 | 6/30/25 | \$10,128 | |
| Terminate | 1287 | Lake Drive Regular | 8/30/24 | 12/13/24 | \$30,433.32 | |

District Roll Call 7-0-0

IVY H/WW/BC Roll call vote 6-0-0

6. Professional Services

WHEREAS, the Mountain Lakes Board of Education (“Board”) has decided to secure the professional services to support the instructional programs of the district; and

WHEREAS, the Board is permitted, pursuant to the Public School Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq., to contract with vendors providing professional services, without advertising bids; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby awards the following contracts with vendors providing professional services, as recommended by the Superintendent:

| Contractor | Start Date | End Date | Nature / Service | Rate | Contract / Not to Exceed |
|-----------------------|------------|----------|--------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Dr. Brian G. Osborne | 5/1/25 | 9/1/25 | Executive Coaching | N/A | \$9,500 |
| Fogarty & Hara, Esqs. | 1/1/25 | 12/31/25 | Law Firm | \$185/partner \$165/associate \$125/law clerk \$85/paralegal | \$80,000 |

District Roll Call 7-0-0

7. Travel / Conferences Expenditures 4

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following staff members to attend training and conferences in accordance with Policy 6471, as recommended by the Superintendent.

| Name / ID | Location | Date | Event Name | Cost |
|------------------|----------|---------|--|-------|
| DISTRICT | | | | |
| Blood, Dara | MLHS | 2/13/25 | Advanced Algebra with Financial Applications | \$295 |
| Cottone, Margo | LD | 1/10/25 | Share Time CCM Programs and the Morris County Career Training Center | \$4 |
| Dorney, Bridgett | MLHS | 2/13/25 | Advanced Algebra with Financial Applications | \$295 |

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BOE Approved: February 3, 2025

| | | | | |
|----------------------|------|---------------|--|-------|
| Morgan, Damien | DW | 1/14-2/11/25 | Management Supervision and Human Resources (online) | \$853 |
| Morgan, Damien | DW | 1/13-1/15/25 | Energy Management (online) | \$205 |
| Morgan, Damien | DW | 3/18-4/1/25 | Preventive Maintenance (online) | \$483 |
| Morgan, Damien | DW | 4/15-4/29/25 | Financial Management and Purchasing (online) | \$483 |
| Morgan, Damien | DW | 12/26-3/12/25 | Environmental Stewardship, Code Compliance and Sustainability (online) | \$760 |
| Schwartz, Jobi | LD | 11/7/24 | Oticon Peds Symposium November 2024 | \$0 |
| Schwartz, Jobi | LD | 9/12/24 | Phonak Back to School Webinar | \$0 |
| Schwartz, Jobi | LD | 11/25/24 | Single Sided Deafness course | \$0 |
| Schwartz, Jobi | LD | 3/14/25 | CHOP Pediatric Audiology Conference--Supporting the Modern Digital Generations | \$110 |
| Seibert, Tania | MLHS | 3/11-3/13/25 | Eng 10: AP Seminar- TMP Training Day | \$375 |
| IVY H/WW/BC | | | | |
| Distell, Jennifer | WW | 2/12/25 | Word-Finding Disorder: What It Is and How to Treat It. | \$295 |
| Doolittle, Christina | BC | 3/11-3/12/25 | NJECC Annual Statewide Educational Technology Conference | \$234 |
| Major, Michelle | BC | 3/11-3/12/25 | The Future is Now: Charting the Course for Teaching and Learning in an AI Integrated World | \$242 |
| McCarthy, Megan | WW | 1/13/25 | Elementary Enrichment/Gifted and Talented Roundtable Discussion | \$15 |
| McCarthy, Megan | WW | 1/24/25 | NJCGTP Sharing Meeting for Teachers | \$0 |
| Murphy, Allison | WW | 12/4/24 | NJ Gifted and Talented Consortium STEAM Workshops | \$0 |

District Roll Call 7-0-0

IVY H/WW/BC Roll call vote 6-0-0

8. Artificial Turf Field

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes School District Board approve the submission for professional services pertaining to the installation of an Artificial Turf Field at Mountain Lakes High School, by Di Cara Rubino Architects at a cost not to exceed \$170,000. Scope of services to include: schematic design, construction documents, bidding, and contract administration, as recommended by the Superintendent.

District Roll Call 7-0-0

23. (HC) Preschool Tuition Rates for 2025-2026 A

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the Ivy Hall Preschool monthly tuition rates for 2025-2026, as recommended by the Superintendent:

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Preschool 4 day/full day | \$1,252 |
| Preschool 4 day/half day | \$755 |
| Preschool 5 day/full day | \$1,509 |
| Preschool 5 day/half day | \$907 |

IVY H/WW/BC Roll call vote 6-0-0

24. (HC) Travel / Conferences Expenditures

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following staff members to attend training and conferences in accordance with Policy 6471, as recommended by the Superintendent.

| Name / ID | Location | Date | Event Name | Cost |
|-----------------|----------|---------------------|--|-------|
| DISTRICT | | | | |
| Sheth, Purvika | DW | January 24-26, 2025 | NJ School Board New Board Member Orientation Weekend | \$542 |

District Roll Call 7-0-0

B. MISCELLANEOUS

9. Board Policies

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve and adopt the below polices for presentation, as recommended by the Superintendent:*

| Action | Policy/Regulation Number | Policy Alert | Title | First Reading | Second Reading |
|---------|--------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Revised | P 5830 | N/A | Student Fundraising | 1/13/25 | |
| Revised | R 5830 | N/A | Student Fundraising | 1/13/25 | |
| Revised | P 7510 | N/A | Use of School Facilities | 1/13/25 | |
| Revised | R 7510 | N/A | Use of School Facilities | 1/13/25 | |
| Revised | P 7511 | N/A | Athletic Field Light Usage | 1/13/25 | |

District Roll Call 7-0-0

10. Committees and Liaisons

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following committees and liaisons for the 2025 calendar year, as recommended by the Superintendent:

2025 COMMITTEES

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment James Hirschfeld (Chair) Aruni Don Sara Forman Lauren McIntyre | Long Range Planning <i>(Special Committee)</i> Aruni Don (Chair) Chris Johnson Lauren McIntyre Purvika Sheth | Policy Jennifer Parker (Chair) T.J. Chiang Purvika Sheth |
| Facilities Sara Forman (Chair) T.J. Chiang Aruni Don Purvika Sheth | Negotiations <i>(Special Committee)</i> Jennifer Parker (Chair) Lauren McIntyre | Special Education T.J. Chiang (Chair) Purvika Sheth |
| Finance Lauren McIntyre (Chair) Sara Forman James Hirschfeld | Personnel Joanne Barkauskas (Chair) Aruni Don James Hirschfeld | Shared Services Joanne Barkauskas Sara Forman Jennifer Parker |

| | | |
|--|-----------------|--|
| | Jennifer Parker | |
|--|-----------------|--|

2025 LIAISONS

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Home and School Association (HSA) Purvika Sheth | ML Friends of the Arts (FOTA) TBD | Sound Start Babies Foundation Aruni Don |
| Laker Sports Club (LSC) Sara Forman | NJ School Boards Delegate T.J. Chiang | Traffic & Safety (Borough) T.J. Chiang |
| ML Alumni Association (MLAA) T.J. Chiang | Recreation Commission Sara Forman | |
| ML Education Foundation (MLEF) Lauren McIntyre | Representative to the County SBA Jennifer Parker | |

District Roll Call 7-0-0

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. PERSONNEL

- Dr. Siegel reviewed:
 - Personnel agenda resolutions and hand carry(s)

Motion by Mrs. Forman and seconded by Dr. Don for motions #11 - # 22, #12(HC), #15(HC)

11. Position Creation/Modifications

WHEREAS, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approved the 2024-2025 budget on May 6, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the balancing of the 2024-2025 budget required adjustments to personnel positions; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the abolishment of the following personnel positions as listed below for budgetary reasons of economy and efficiency; and

CUST-DW-CUST-20 – Night Custodian P/T - .68

CUST-DW-CUST-12 – Night Custodian P/T - .63

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve said personnel changes effective January 28, 2025, as recommended by the Superintendent.

District Roll Call 7-0-0

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

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:

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| Name | Action | UPC | Position | Location | FTE | Degree/ Step | Rate of Pay | Start Date | Term Date |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|------|----------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| DISTRICT | | | | | | | | | |
| Emp ID 5239 | Termination (RIF) | CUST-DW-CUST-12 | Custodian (P/T) | DW | .63 | Step 5 | \$35,232.75 | 1/19/21 | 1/28/25 |
| Emp ID 5661 | Termination | CUST-DW-CUST-20 | P/T Night Custodian | DW | .68 | Step 1 | \$37,208.25 | 4/15/24 | 1/28/25 |
| Gonzalez, Destiny | Appointment | SPS-LR-AID-U29-31 | Paraprofessional (P/T) | LD | 0.97 | Step 4 | \$22,710.02 (prorated) | 1/31/25 (or sooner pending paperwork) | 6/30/25 |
| Herzog, Jamie | Rescind Appointment | SPS-LR-AID-U29-31 | Paraprofessional (P/T) | LD | 0.97 | Step 3 | \$22,443 (prorated) | 1/27/25 | 6/30/25 |
| Jorgenson, Kyle | Appointment | | LTR Teacher (5182) | LD | .5 | Step 1 | \$31,835 (prorated) | 1/2/25 | 4/11/25 |
| IVY H/WW/BC | | | | | | | | | |
| Doolittle, Christina | Appointment | TCH-BC-TCH-11 | Additional Coverage | BC | .2 | MA+30 /Step 15 | \$5,946 | 1/14/25 | 3/31/25 |
| Ebersole, Erica | Appointment | TCH-BC-TCH-06 | Additional Coverage Extension (4119) | BC | .2 | MA/ Step 15 | \$5,346 | 12/1/24 | 2/15/25 |
| Lih, Erik | Appointment | TCH-BC-TCH-02 | Additional Coverage Extension (4119) | BC | .2 | BA/ Step 10 | \$3,835 | 12/1/24 | 2/15/25 |
| Lombardi, Diedre | Appointment | TCH-BC-TCH-13 | Additional Coverage | BC | .2 | MA/ Step 15 | \$6,059 | 1/14/25 | 3/31/25 |
| Major, Michelle | Appointment | TCH-BC-TCH-22 | Additional Coverage | BC | .2 | MA+30 /Step 15 | \$5,946 | 1/14/25 | 3/31/25 |
| Pelliconi, Debra | Appointment | TCH-BC-TCH-15 | Additional Coverage | BC | .2 | MA/Step 15 | \$6,100 | 1/14/25 | 3/31/25 |
| Peterson, Danielle | Appointment | TCH-BC-TCH-17 | Additional Coverage Extension (4119) | BC | .2 | BA/ Step 11 | \$3,973 | 12/1/24 | 2/15/25 |
| Platt, Kaitlin | Appointment | TCH-BC-CST-01 | Additional Prep Extension (4119) | BC | .1 | MA/ Step 11 | \$2,189 | 12/1/24 | 2/15/25 |
| Platt, Kaitlin | Appointment | TCH-BC-CST-01 | Additional Coverage | BC | .2 | MA/ Step 11 | \$4,962 | 1/14/25 | 3/31/25 |
| Posner, Dennis | Appointment | SPT-BC-LIB-01 | Additional Coverage Extension (4119) | BC | .2 | MA/ Step 15 | \$5,346 | 12/1/24 | 2/15/25 |

District Roll Call 7-0-0

IVY H/WW/BC Roll call vote 6-0-0

12. (HC) Appointments / Amendments/ Resignations / Rescission / Retirements / RIF's A

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 |
|------|--------|-----|----------|----------|-----|--------------|-------------|------------|-----------|
|------|--------|-----|----------|----------|-----|--------------|-------------|------------|-----------|

| IVY H/WW/BC | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|----|----|---------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Gaffney, Victoria | Appointment | TCH-BC-CST-03 | Additional Prep | BC | .1 | MA+60/Step 13 | \$2,648 | 1/14/25 | 3/31/25 |

District Roll Call 6-0-0

13. Leaves of Absence

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following leaves of absence, as recommended by the Superintendent:

| ID# | Action | Position | Location | FTE | Start Date | Term Date |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|----------|-----|------------|-----------|
| DISTRICT | | | | | | |
| 5629 | Revise MLOA, w/pay, w/benefits | Teacher | MLHS | 1.0 | 12/16/24 | 1/16/25 |
| 5629 | Revise FMLA, w/out pay, w/benefits | Teacher | MLHS | 1.0 | 1/17/25 | 4/4/25 |
| 4930 | MLOA w/pay, w/benefits | Grounds/Maintenance | DW | 1.0 | 11/18/24 | 12/6/24 |
| 4930 | FMLA, w/o pay, w/benefits | Grounds/Maintenance | DW | 1.0 | 12/9/24 | 1/3/25 |

District Roll Call 7-0-0

14. Additional Compensation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following additional compensation, for extra earnings not listed in contract, as recommended by the Superintendent:

| Name | Action | Position | Location | Rate of Pay | Start Date | Term Date |
|-------------------------|-------------|---|----------|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| DISTRICT | | | | | | |
| Adams, Sarah | Appointment | Mentor (5213) | MLHS | \$1,000 (prorated) | 1/2/25 | 6/30/25 |
| DeGenaars, Gioia | Appointment | Instructor - Testing Options in Canvas - Creation and Conversion | MLHS | \$50 | 1/27/25 | 1/27/25 |
| Gonzalez, Maria | Appointment | Mentor (5531) | LD | \$1,000 (prorated) | 1/2/25 | 4/11/25 |
| Humphreys, Ryan | Appointment | 8th Grade Open House | MLHS | \$50/hr. (not to exceed 2 hrs.) | 12/9/24 | 12/9/24 |
| Kassel-Petrocco, Janice | Appointment | Instructor - Deconstructing Depth of Knowledge | LD | \$50 | 1/27/25 | 1/27/25 |
| Pacifico, John | Appointment | Instructor - Enhancing Learning with ClassVR | DW | \$50 | 1/27/25 | 1/27/25 |
| Posner, Dennis | Appointment | Instructor - Getting Started with AI in K-12 Education (K-12) | MLHS | \$125 | 1/27/25 | 1/27/25 |
| Price, Ryan | Appointment | Instructor - Music Department Vertical Alignment and Benchmark Development | MLHS | \$250 | 1/27/25 | 1/27/25 |
| VanderLaan, Brooke | Appointment | Instructor - Exploring the Influence of AI on Teachers, Students, and the Educational Landscape | LD | \$50 | 1/27/25 | 1/27/25 |

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Monday, January 13, 2025

BOE Approved: February 3, 2025

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---|------|-------------|---------|---------|
| Wallace, Christopher | Appointment | Instructor - Vernier Go Direct Probes as Data Collection | MLHS | \$125 | 1/27/25 | 1/27/25 |
| Wojcik, LuAnn | Appointment | Instructor - Narcan Training | MLHS | \$50 | 1/27/25 | 1/27/25 |
| Wojcik, LuAnn | Appointment | Instructor - Stop the Bleed Training | MLHS | \$50 | 1/27/25 | 1/27/25 |
| Wojcik, LuAnn | Appointment | Instructor - School Safety & Security Awareness; Best Practices for School Nurses | MLHS | \$50 | 1/27/25 | 1/27/25 |
| IVY H/WW/BC | | | | | | |
| Benedetto, Gina (OOD) | Appointment | Program Assistant: Time to Soar | WW | \$25.85/hr. | 1/14/25 | 6/30/25 |
| Ebersole, Erica | Appointment | Instructor - Using Atlas to Create Exceptional Lessons | BC | \$125 | 1/27/25 | 1/27/25 |
| Lih, Erik | Appointment | Instructor - Meet the Minds: Using AI to Connect Students with Figures from History, Science, and Fiction | BC | \$150 | 1/27/25 | 1/27/25 |
| McNeill, Nicole | Appointment | Instructor - Google Certification - Generative AI for Educators | WW | \$125 | 1/27/25 | 1/27/25 |

District Roll Call 7-0-0

IVY H/WW/BC Roll call vote 6-0-0

15. Substitutes, Volunteers and Intern Appointments 1

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following appointments, as recommended by the Superintendent:

| Name | Action | Position | Location | Rate of Pay | Start Date | Term Date |
|----------------------|-------------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| DISTRICT | | | | | | |
| Chen, Ashley | Appointment | Volunteer | DW | N/A | 8/28/24 | 6/30/25 |
| Hunsinger, Bianca | Appointment | Substitute | DW | Board Approved Rate | 1/14/25 | 6/30/25 |
| Shishkin, Natalia | Appointment | Volunteer | DW | N/A | 8/28/24 | 6/30/25 |
| VanDooijeweert, Dawn | Appointment | Substitute Secretary | LD | Hourly Rate (Not to exceed 80 hours) | 1/2/25 | 6/30/25 |
| IVY H/WW/BC | | | | | | |
| Mendello, James | Appointment | Volunteer-Spring Musical | BC | N/A | 12/16/24 | 4/12/25 |
| Wallace, Mary | Appointment | Volunteer-Spring Musical | BC | N/A | 12/16/24 | 4/12/25 |

District Roll Call 7-0-0

IVY H/WW/BC Roll call vote 6-0-0

15. (HC) Substitutes, Volunteers and Intern Appointments Δ

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following appointments, as recommended by the Superintendent:

| Name | Action | Position | Location | Rate of Pay | Start Date | Term Date |
|--------------------|-------------|----------------------|----------|-------------|------------|-----------|
| IVY H/WW/BC | | | | | | |
| Tarquino, Danielle | Appointment | Long Term Substitute | BC | \$190/day | 1/14/25 | 3/31/25 |

IVY H/WW/BC Roll call vote 6-0-0

16. Field Trips Δ

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following field trips for the 2024-2025 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent:

| School | Destination | Reason | Date |
|--------------------|---------------------|--|--------------|
| DISTRICT | | | |
| MLHS | Flemington, NJ | NJ Speech and Debate State Championships | 3/14-3/15/25 |
| MLHS | Jefferson Twsp., NJ | Student Leadership Conference | 2/4/25 |
| MLHS (LD) | Basking Ridge, NJ | Matt Hamill Meet and Greet | 3/8/25 |
| MLHS | Montville, NJ | Invitational Speech & Debate Tournament | 1/18/25 |
| IVY H/WW/BC | | | |
| BC | Livingston, NJ | Robotics Competition | 2/8/25 |
| WW | Jersey City, NJ | Liberty Science Center | 5/29/25 |

District Roll Call 7-0-0

IVY H/WW/BC Roll call vote 6-0-0

17. Tuition Reimbursement Δ

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following course(s) for tuition reimbursement when the course has been completed and the transcripts received by the Superintendent's office, as recommended by the Superintendent:

| Name | Location | College/University | Course Title / # | Credits |
|--------------------|----------|------------------------|--|---------|
| DISTRICT | | | | |
| DiGiacinto, Kerry | DW | Univ. of St. Elizabeth | Dissertation Advisement II/EDAS 790 | 3.0 |
| Elfers, Robert | MLHS | NJ City Univ. | Educational Assessment/EDU 693 | 3.0 |
| Elfers, Robert | MLHS | NJ City Univ. | Internship Seminar/EDU 672 | 2.0 |
| Joy, Melba | DW | Montclair State Univ. | Differentiated Supervision/ELAD 540 | 3.0 |
| Mores-Silva, Maria | LD | Univ. Of Alabama | Social Work & Emotional Trauma/SW724 | 3.0 |
| Mores-Silva, Maria | LD | Univ. Of Alabama | Capstone Prep Independent Study/Proposal/SW751 | 2.0 |
| Mores-Silva, Maria | LD | Univ. Of Alabama | Capstone Project/SW799 (8/13-12/17/25; 1/3) | 3.0 |
| Mores-Silva, Maria | LD | Univ. Of Alabama | Capstone Project/SW799 (1/8-4/22/26; 2/3) | 3.0 |

| | | | | |
|--------------------|----|-------------------------------|--|-----|
| Mores-Silva, Maria | LD | Univ. Of Alabama | Capstone Project/SW799 (5/27-7/31/26; 3/3) | 3.0 |
| Pacifico, John | DW | Montclair State Univ. | Operating Systems/CSIT 547 | 3.0 |
| Pacifico, John | DW | Montclair State Univ. | Computer Networks/CSIT 540 | 3.0 |
| IVY H/WW/BC | | | | |
| Ramirez, Justin | BC | American College of Education | Community Engagement, Outreach and Collaborations/EL5053 | 3.0 |

District Roll Call 7-0-0

IVY H/WW/BC Roll call vote 6-0-0

B. CURRICULUM / SPECIAL SERVICES

C. MISCELLANEOUS

18. Mountain Lakes School District Summer Academy

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the 2025 Mountain Lakes School District Summer Academy program dates of Monday, June 30, 2025 – Friday, July 25, 2025, as recommended by the Superintendent.

District Roll Call 7-0-0

19. Lake Drive Summer School Program

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the 2025 Lake Drive Summer School program dates of Monday, June 30, 2025 – Friday, July 25, 2025, as recommended by the Superintendent.

District Roll Call 7-0-0

20. Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Incident *Δ*

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education affirm and adopt the Superintendent’s decision and findings for the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying incident Case #BC-003-24-25 reported the Board of Education on December 16, 2024, and discussed in Executive Session, as recommended by the Superintendent.

IVY H/WW/BC Roll call vote 5-0-1 (A:P. Sheth)

21. Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Incident *Δ*

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education affirm and adopt the Superintendent’s decision and findings for the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying incident Case #BC-004-24-25 reported the Board of Education on December 16, 2024, and discussed in Executive Session, as recommended by the Superintendent.

IVY H/WW/BC Roll call vote 4-0-2 (A:S. Forman, P. Sheth)

22. Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Incident *Δ*

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education affirm and adopt the Superintendent’s decision and findings for the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying incident Case # HS-002-24-25 reported the Board of Education on December 16, 2024, and discussed in Executive Session, as recommended by the Superintendent.

District Roll Call 6-0-1 (A:P. Sheth)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

PENDING LEGISLATION - None

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:27pm was made by Mrs. Forman and seconded by Mr. Chiang.

District Roll Call 7-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. James Riley

School Business Administrator / Board Secretary

Δ Indicates matters not relating to MLHS, the Boonton Township district Representative of the Board of Education will refrain from voting on such matters, pursuant to Board Policy 0141.2.

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

2024-2025 District Goals

| Goal Statement | Goal Area |
|---|---|
| 1. Establish a system of support for administrators and certified staff members that promotes high quality feedback, instruction, and student learning using the Stronge Effectiveness Performance Evaluation System. | Ensuring the Success of All Staff |
| 2. Assess and develop a plan to upgrade district security systems and practices with a focus on infrastructure, training, resources, and guidance to ensure safety and wellbeing for our students, staff members, and community. | Finance/Infrastructure/Technology Supporting the Whole Child |
| 3. Develop a meaningful collaboration with Rockaway Valley School (Boonton Township) in an effort to align educational programming and other school systems that promote coherence for students, staff members, and families in the region. | Strong Family/School/Community Partnerships |
| 4. Explore opportunities to strengthen and expand students' learning with rigorous, relevant, and engaging STEM education, across PreK-12th grade. | Ensuring the Success of All Students |
| 5. Enhance communication and create channels for meaningful input between/among the district leadership, staff, and community partners to build trust, cohesion, and support for decision-making across the district. | Ensuring the Success of All Staff |

2024-2025 Board Goals

| Board Goal | Committee Support |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Support the development and improvement of district personnel systems to retain high quality staff members and promote fair, consistent, and effective supervision across the district. | Personnel |
| 2. Endeavor to reach a long-term agreement with Boonton Township School District extending the send-receive relationship for Rockaway Valley School students to attend Mountain Lakes High School. | Full Board, Negotiations |
| 3. Develop a positive and collaborative relationship between the Board of Education and new superintendent to ensure a broad vision and governance plan for the district result in clear, appropriate, and effective decisions. | Full Board |
| 4. Enhance communication and relationships between the Board of Education and Mountain Lakes staff by expanding BOE member attendance at key school programs and events and increasing staff and school highlights at regular BOE meetings. | Full Board |
| 5. Secure and successfully transition a full time Business Administrator/Board Secretary with essential skills, dispositions, and knowledge to meet the diverse fiscal and operational needs of the district. | Finance, Facilities |
| 6. Promote a safe and positive learning environment for all students by supporting the administration and staff with resources related to upgrades in school security and various wellness initiatives. | Facilities, Security |