

Mountain View School District
“A Community’s Commitment to Excellence”
Board of Education Public Meeting
Monday, April 7, 2025
MINUTES

1.1 Call to Order

The regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Education on April 7, 2025 was held in the James W. Zick Board Room and was called to order at 7:16 PM by Mr. Kenneth Decker, First Vice President.

1.2 Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

1.3 Roll Call – Board Members Present:

Mr. Kenneth Decker, First Vice President; Mr. Michael Barhite, Second Vice President; Mr. Michael Molenko; Ms. Louise Cator, Mr. Michael Talabiska; Mr. Tracy Flynn; Mr. Derek O’Dell.

Absent: Mr. Jason Richmond, President; Mr. Danny Very.

Administration Present:

Dr. Mike Elia, Superintendent; Mr. Thomas Witiak, Business Manager; Mrs. Erica Loftus, Special Services Director; Mr. Patrick McGarry, Elementary School Principal; Dr. Mark Lemoncelli, High School Principal; Attorney Joseph Gaughan, Solicitor.

Absent: Vacant, Director of Curriculum.

1.4. Pride in Mountain View:

- Brooklyn Anderson SGA Representative
Brooklyn presented the MVSGA Liaison Report.
- Budget Presentations
 - Technology – Patty Button
Mrs. Button presented the Technology budget in the amount of \$392,690.00
 - Maintenance – Bob Taylor
Mr. Taylor presented the Maintenance budget in the amount of \$930,300.
 - Curriculum – Dr. Michael Elia
Dr. Elia presented the Curriculum budget.

1.5. Approve the Board Minutes

The motion is made by Mr. Talabiska, second by Mr. O’Dell, to approve the minutes dated March 3, 2025, as presented.

Motion 191 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

1.6. Treasurer's Report – Michael Talabiska, Treasurer

- Mr. Talabiska presented the Treasurer's Report.

1.7. First Hearing of Visitors

You may speak about anything on the agenda. Please identify yourself by name and address all comments to the Board as a whole. You will be allowed two (2) minutes for your comments; five (5) minutes if prior written notification was made. Comments relative to private student matters or personnel issues should be directed to the appropriate school authority outside of this meeting. The presiding officer reserves the right to interrupt or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

- Ted Brewster asked clarifying questions about the agenda.

2. Finance Committee: Michael Barhite, Chairperson

Committee Members: Michael Molenko, Derek O'Dell

2.1. Approve April Bill List

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Talabiska, to approve the list of bills for April 7, 2025 for the General Fund in the amount of \$472,345.11 and the Cafeteria Fund in the amount of \$48,294.02 totaling \$520,639.13, as presented.

Motion 192 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

2.2. Approve Exonerations for Real Estate, Per Capita, and Occupational Taxes

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Talabiska, to approve exonerations for 2025 real estate, 2025 per capita taxes and 2025 occupation taxes as submitted by the Susquehanna County Courthouse and tax collectors, as presented.

Motion 193 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

2.3. Approve Cafeteria Budget

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Talabiska, to approve the 2025-2026 Cafeteria Budget, as presented.

Motion 194 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

2.4. Approve Transfer of Funds

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Talabiska, to authorize transfer of funds from General Fund Bank Account to Athletic Fund Bank Account in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Motion 195 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

3. Personnel Committee: Michael Molenko, Chairperson

Committee Members: Louise Cator, Derek O'Dell

3.1. Accept Coach Resignation

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to accept the letter of resignation from the following coaches:

- A. David Breese, Girls Varsity Volleyball Head Coach, effective March 4, 2025.
- B. Todd Calabro, Girls Varsity Soccer Head Coach, effective March 11, 2025.
- C. Kenny Decker, Varsity Wrestling Head Coach, effective March 17, 2025.
- D. Robert Fitzsimmons, Golf Head Coach, effective February 6, 2025 (no letter attached, coach is deceased).
- E. Austin Swoyer, JH Wrestling Coach, effective November 22, 2024.

Motion 196 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

3.2. Authorize Posting and Advertising

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to authorize posting and advertising for the following position:

- A. Girls Varsity Volleyball Head Coach
- B. Girls Varsity Soccer Head Coach
- C. Varsity Wrestling Head Coach
- D. Golf Head Coach
- E. JH Wrestling Coach

Motion 197 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

3.3. Approve Volunteers

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to appoint the following volunteer(s):

- A. Ryan Supancik, New Milford, Athletic Director, Coaching

Motion 198 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

3.4. Approve Substitute Teachers

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve the following substitutes:

- A. Josie Evans, Harford, to the Substitute Teacher List
- B. Sophie Lawrenson, Thompson, to the Substitute Teacher List

Motion 199 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

3.5. Approve Long-Term Substitute

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve Caitlin Williams as a long-term substitute for having served more than 30 consecutive days as an Elementary Teacher with rate of \$165.00 per day effective March 7, 2025.

Motion 200 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

4. **Policy Committee: Michael Talabiska Chairperson**

Committee Members: Danny Very, Tracy Flynn

4.1. Second Reading of the Following Policies:

Policy 103 Vol IV 2020 – Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students

Policy 104 Vol IV 2020 – Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff

- Mr. Talabiska led the discussion on Policy 103 and Policy 104.

5. **Education Committee: Michael Talabiska, Chairperson**

Committee Members: Tracy Flynn, Louise Cator

5.1. Approve Field Trip Requests

The motion is made by Mr. Talabiska, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve the following field trip requests:

- A. Kelly Richmond, Kerra Spindler, Cheryl Taylor, Danielle Scott, 16 Students, April 30, 2025, Inclusive Bowling Trip, Carbondale, PA, (Travel: \$165.58; Total: \$165.58).
- B. Kelly Richmond, Kerra Spindler, Danielle Scott, Cheryl Taylor, Sarah Evans, Stacy Decker, Melissa Berish, Charissa Ofalt, Kim Fletcher, 13 students, May 21, 2025, Fun Day, Tunkhannock, PA (Travel: \$227.88; Total: \$227.88).
- C. Kelly Richmond, Kerra Spindler, Danielle Scott, Cheryl Taylor, 12 students, May 7, 2025, Formal Dining Experience, Tunkhannock, PA (Travel: \$48.24; Total: \$48.24).

- D. Kelly Richmond, Kerra Spindler, Danielle Scott, Cheryl Taylor, Wendy Thomas, 12 students, May 28, 2025, Railriders STEM Day, Moosic, PA (Travel: \$46.90; Total: \$46.90).
- E. Mason Stiver, 6th grade band students, April 23, 2025, Railrider National Anthem, Moosic, PA (Travel: \$268.30; Total: \$268.30).
- F. Ashley Coviello, Brandi Miller, Kristy Moher, Professional substitute TBD, Allison Bluhm, Melissa Berish, Sarah Evans, 67 students, May 15, 2025, Animal Adventure Park, Harpursville, NY (Travel: \$632.16, Substitute: \$115.00, Substitute Paraprofessional: \$94.25; Total: \$841.41).
- G. Tracy Bazil, Alicia Waters, Matt Ord, Charissa Ofalt, Kindergarten Classes, June 3, 2025, The Discovery Center, Binghamton, NY (Travel: \$529.72 Substitute Paraprofessional: \$94.25 ; Total: \$623.97).
- H. Charleen Martens, 5 Students, April 1, 2025, Scholastic Bowl, NEIU 19 (Travel: \$35.00 Substitute: \$115.00; Total: \$150.00).
- I. Christine Misiura, Allison Butash, Sue Gesford, 8 students, May 15, 2025, NPCTM Math Contest, Scranton, PA (Travel: \$35.00, Registration: \$120.00, Substitute: \$345.00; Total: \$500.00).
- J. Whitney Johnson, Todd Calabro, 30 students, May 29, 2025, Jr. High Envirothon, Lackawanna State Park (Travel: \$183.93, Substitute: \$230.00; Total: \$413.93).
- K. Whitney Johnson, Jessica Trichilo, 25 students, June 2, 2025, Destiny USA, Syracuse, NY (Substitute: \$230.00; Total: \$230.00).
- L. Andrea Sanders, Jackie Ferenczi, Charlene Martens, Pat McGarry, 6th grade classes, May 23, 2025, Rock Mountain Bible Camp, Susquehanna, PA (Travel: \$299.07, Tickets: \$2,368.00; Total: \$2,667.07).
- M. Melissa Wasko, Joshua Carpenter, Joanna Burchell, Christina Curtis, Paraprofessional TBD, 64 students, May 30, 2025, Scranton Cultural Center, Scranton PA (Travel: \$517.52, Substitute Paraprofessional: \$188.50; Total: \$706.02)

Motion 201 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

5.2. Approve Conference Requests

The motion is made by Mr. Talabiska, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve the following conference requests:

- A. Allison Bluhm, Jessica Mead, March 21, 2025, Reasoning with Unreasonable People, Virtual (Recording Cost: \$54.00; Total: \$54.00).
- B. Stacy Decker, Kelly Richmond, March 28, 2025, PASA DLM, Mayfield, PA (Travel: \$62.16, Substitute: \$230; Total: \$292.16)

Motion 202 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

5.3. Approve Mark's Driving School, LLC

The motion is made by Mr. Talabiska, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve Mark's Driving School, LLC to provide the Mountain View Students with behind the wheel driving instruction and testing for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented.

Motion 203 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

6. Building and Site Committee: Danny Very, Chairperson

Committee Members: Michael Barhite, Kenneth Decker

Mr. Taylor's Report

- Mr. Taylor reported that the natural gas installation is moving forward. Leatherstocking, Williams, and Cotera have nearly finished the paperwork. The wood boiler is off for the season.

7. Transportation Committee: Kenny Decker, Chairperson

Committee Members: Michael Barhite, Danny Very

8. Labor Relations Committee: Jason Richmond, Chairperson

MVEA Committee Members: Michael Talabiska, Danny Very, Kenneth Decker

MVESPA Committee Members: Derek O'Dell, Michael Talabiska, Danny Very

8.1. Approve MOU with MVEA for Duration of 2024-2025 School Year

The motion is made by Mr. Talabiska, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve the MOU with the MVEA for the duration of the 2024-2025 school year to temporarily extend the retirement incentive, as presented.

Motion 204 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

9. Administration

9.1. Principals' Comments

Elementary Principal - Mr. Patrick McGarry

- Mr. McGarry stated that kindergarten registration is this week. 6th grade band is playing the national anthem at an upcoming Railriders game.

High School Principal - Dr. Mark Lemoncelli

- Chelsea Empet and Riley Kilmer were named Scholastic Superstars. Luke Zipprich was named Scholar of the Year.

9.2. Director of Special Services - Mrs. Erica Loftus

- April is Autism Acceptance Month. PASSA tests will be starting soon.

9.3. Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Federal Programs - Vacant

9.4. Business Manager – Mr. Thomas Witiak

- No comment.

9.5. Superintendent - Dr. Michael Elia

- Dr. Elia said he is working on the budget and trying to be efficient.

10. Closing

10.1. New Business from Board Members

- Mr. Decker thanked the administrators for their hard work.

10.2. Second Hearing of Visitors

You may address any topic. Please identify yourself by name and address all comments to the Board as a whole. You will be allowed two (2) minutes for your comments; five (5) minutes if prior written notification was made. Comments relative to private student matters or personnel issues should be directed to the appropriate school authority outside of this meeting. The presiding officer reserves the right to interrupt or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

- Ted Brewster asked clarifying questions about the agenda.
- Tenielle Hobart asked about bingo.

10.3. Executive Session – Announcement of executive sessions held and/or scheduled.

HELD:

- Monday, March 3, 2025 - 8:05pm – 8:35 pm for Personnel, Contracts, Legal Concerns
- Monday, April 7, 2025 - 6:00pm – 7:10 pm for Personnel

SCHEDULED:

- Monday, April 22, 2025 before the public meeting

11. Adjourn

The motion was made by Mr. Talabiska, second by Mr. O'Dell, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Witiak