

Mountainside Board of Education

Meeting Highlights

September 20, 2022



This newsletter provides a monthly summary of discussions and actions taken at the Mountainside Board of Education meetings.

These are not the official minutes. Please check our website for the official minutes and additional information.

Our meetings are recorded and can be viewed on our website.

Mountainside School District Board of Education

James W. Ruban, Jr. (President), Dana Guidici Pietro (Vice President)
 Bill Dillon, Jordan Hyman, Vivian Pupo
 Candice Schiano, Carmine Venes

Administrative Team

Janet Walling, Superintendent of Schools
 Steven Robinson, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary
 Suzanne Jenks, Principal – Deerfield School
 Jessica Vierschilling, Principal – Beechwood School
 Sheri Rouleau, Supervisor of Special Services

Action Items	Action Taken
Approval of Minutes	<i>BOE approved minutes for:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 30, 2022 Regular Session August 30, 2022 Executive Session
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email from J. Soares regarding curriculum Email from G. Van Kirk regarding legal counsel structure for board meetings Letter from J. Polce regarding curriculum Letter from E. Feller regarding curriculum
President's Report	Mr. Ruban read a statement about the important decision the board is faced with in regard to NJ state mandate for the Comprehensive Health & PE Curriculum. He read the possible consequences from the state for not complying with the requirements. He stated that upon consultation with the legal counsel he was informed that these penalties can range from loss of state aid, loss of QSAC points, being placed on a corrective action plan, teachers and/or administrators loss of certification, and/or board member penalties.
Superintendent's Report	Mrs. Walling welcomed parents and hopes children have enjoyed the start of the school year. She presented the Student Safety Data Report for Jan. - June 21/22. She presented the revised mandated Health & Family Life Curriculum. She outlined the specific aspects of the curricular documents and noted the detailed approach to writing this curriculum with attention to age appropriate lessons. This comprehensive presentation and drafts of the curriculum were available to view on the website prior to the meeting. Various potential legal and budgetary ramifications were shared by Mr. Robinson as part of the presentation. Mrs. Walling reviewed the existing opt-out policy & new process that parents would have the option to follow. Afterwards, the Board asked questions and expressed their thoughts and concerns with the required curricular changes. Mrs. Walling responded.
Public Participation	The public was invited to speak on the Health and Family Life topic after Mrs. Walling's presentation. A number of community members spoke about their concerns and thoughts regarding the new curricular mandates and asked the board to consider their vote carefully.
Business Administrator's Report	none
BH Liaison Report	Mr. Hyman's next meeting will be on 9/22 at GL.
Administration	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> <i>Statement of Assurance Regarding the Use of Paraprofessional Staff for 2022-2023; Student Safety Data System Report for the 2021 - 2022 school year; 2022-2023 Mountainside Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan and Checklist.</i>

Budget and Finance	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Budget transfers for August 2022; Board Secretary Reports for August 2022; GL Gen. Ed. Tuition Agreement Contract for 22-23 SY in the amount of \$4,849,439.00 less credit of \$75,195.00 for prior tuition adjustments for a total of \$4,774,244.00; shared services agreement for Class II Officer between Mountainside BOE and the Borough for 22-23 SY; MUJC to provide transportation for the ESY 22-23; Special Education placements and services.																				
Personnel	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved: for the 22/23 SY</i> Retirement of Wayne DeVico, Supervisor of Maintenance & Custodial Services, effective 12/ 31/22, and thank him for his outstanding 31 years of service to the District; Extension of unpaid family leave for Elizabeth Shimwell, from 11/28/22 through 6/30/23; Mentorships during the 2022-2023 SY; a medical leave of absence for Employee #90184532, from 9/1/22 through approximately 11/30/22; Desiree Baroody to provide supplemental instruction for student #9074404763, 2 hours/week at a rate of \$44.00/hour; Additions to the Substitute Teacher List; Stipend Positions.																				
Curriculum	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE did not approve:</i> <table border="1" data-bbox="347 520 1318 709"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="347 520 812 583">Subject Area</th> <th data-bbox="812 520 1318 583">Grade Levels</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="347 583 812 709">Health and Family Life</td> <td data-bbox="812 583 1318 709">Grades K-2 (Attachment #14) Grades 3-5 (Attachment #15) Grades 6-8 (Attachment #16)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Subject Area	Grade Levels	Health and Family Life	Grades K-2 (Attachment #14) Grades 3-5 (Attachment #15) Grades 6-8 (Attachment #16)														
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Policy	<i>BOE had the first reading of the following policies:</i> <table border="1" data-bbox="342 787 1511 882"> <tr> <td data-bbox="342 787 548 882">P 2425 R 2425</td> <td data-bbox="548 787 1227 882">Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program</td> <td data-bbox="1227 787 1511 882">Revised/Mandated New</td> </tr> </table> <i>BOE had the second reading and adoption of the following policies:</i> <table border="1" data-bbox="342 945 1495 1287"> <tr> <td data-bbox="342 945 548 1008">P 1511</td> <td data-bbox="548 945 1227 1008">Board of Education Website Accessibility</td> <td data-bbox="1227 945 1495 1008">New/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="342 1008 548 1071">P 2415</td> <td data-bbox="548 1008 1227 1071">Every Student Succeeds Act</td> <td data-bbox="1227 1008 1495 1071">Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="342 1071 548 1134">P 5512</td> <td data-bbox="548 1071 1227 1134">Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying</td> <td data-bbox="1227 1071 1495 1134">Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="342 1134 548 1228">P 5513 R 5513</td> <td data-bbox="548 1134 1227 1228">Care of School Property</td> <td data-bbox="1227 1134 1495 1228">Revised/Mandated New/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="342 1228 548 1287">P 5722</td> <td data-bbox="548 1228 1227 1287">Student Journalism</td> <td data-bbox="1227 1228 1495 1287">New/Mandated</td> </tr> </table>			P 2425 R 2425	Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program	Revised/Mandated New	P 1511	Board of Education Website Accessibility	New/Mandated	P 2415	Every Student Succeeds Act	Revised/Mandated	P 5512	Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying	Revised/Mandated	P 5513 R 5513	Care of School Property	Revised/Mandated New/Mandated	P 5722	Student Journalism	New/Mandated
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Old Business	None																				
New Business	Dr. Guidici Pietro mentioned the PTO fall festival is coming up. Mr. Dillon asked for an update on our 5-Year Strategic Plan. Mrs. Walling responded that District Goals will align with many of the same points as the Strategic Plan, so they will look again at this in the near future. Mrs. Pupo mentioned that the new library director, Mrs. Shaw is amazing and is trying to reorganize and draw more people to visit like pre-covid times to support the library.																				
Committee Reports	Mr. Dillon mentioned the Buildings & Grounds/Finance Committee met recently, where they discussed revising the building use form.																				
Public Comments	Members of the community thanked the board for listening to the public opposition to the Health Curriculum. Mr. Ruban commented that he respects the board members and the difficult decisions they are sometimes faced with. He is confident that they vote in ways they think is right, and in the best interest of the school district. He thanked the community for being respectful.																				

Our website: www.mountainsideschools.org

Please contact the office of the Mountainside BOE for additional information or questions: 908-232-3232.