

# Mountainside Board of Education

## Meeting Highlights

### August 30, 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	<p><i>BOE approved minutes for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>July 19, 2022 Regular Session</li> <li>July 19, 2022 Executive Session</li> </ul>
Superintendent's Report	<p>Mrs. Walling took a moment to recognize the sudden passing of Stephan Miedowicz, our Deerfield evening custodian who worked with us for 14 years. She and the board send their condolences to his wife and family. She went on to thank staff who worked over the summer (secretaries, custodians, technology dept.) for all their hard work in preparation to reopen schools. She presented a new banner commemorating the 2022 Boys' Basketball Team's winning season, and hopes to continue to add to these in the years to come. Mrs. Walling presented the new mandated Health and Family Life Curriculum. This comprehensive presentation and drafts of the curriculum are available to view on our website. Afterwards, the Board asked questions and expressed their concerns. Some board members complimented the detailed outlining of the mandated curriculum. Mrs. Walling responded.</p>
Public Participation	<p>The public was invited to speak on the Health and Family Life topic after Mrs. Walling's presentation. There were several parents who spoke about their concerns about the new mandates. Several people voiced their concerns, questioned how opting out will work, and asked the board to consider their vote carefully. There was a question about other districts who voted no. Various potential legal ramifications were shared.</p>
Business Administrator's Report	<p>Mr. Robinson said the district is ready for reopening. The buildings have been deep cleaned, safety measures installed. There were tree removals and other trees around on our property are being monitored. Mr. Hyman asked about a lighting project from last year that Mr. Ruban recalled an issue with the vendor. Mr. Robinson said he will look into it.</p>
BH Liaison Report	<p>Mr. Hyman's last meeting was on 8/11 at GL, and meetings going forward will be at GL, recordings will be online. The next regular meeting will be on 9/22, with an emergency meeting on 9/1. They approved an open campus for seniors, a new student representative, and viewed a health presentation for K-12, and added an additional bus route. The current driver shortages may impact sports. School cafeteria prices have increased significantly, 25-50%. The football team had a season kick off, debuting the new head coach. Dr. Guidici Pietro asked if BH approved the family life curriculum, to which Mr. Hyman responded that they did pass it.</p>
Administration	<p><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved: for the 22/23 SY</i>                      Professional Development Plan and SOA; Mentoring Plan and SOA; School Safety and Security Plan; SCiP/Professional Development Committee; Use of Charlotte Danielson 2013 Rating System for certificated staff evaluations; Student Handbooks; Jessica Vierschilling as District Anti-Bullying Coordinator; BW &amp; DF July safety and security drill reports. <i>Family Life curriculum was tabled.</i></p>

**Budget and Finance*****As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:***

Budget transfers for July 2022; Payment of the Bill List; Board Secretary Reports for June & July 2022; Cafeteria Price List for 22/23 SY; Independent Physicians/Contractors List for 22/23 SY; Acceptance of Nonpublic School Transportation Aid in the amount of \$22,910; FY22 Extraordinary Aid in the amount of \$193,789; Agreement with Peggnet to provide technology support services for 10 wks. in the amount of \$35,000; Agreement with MUJC for professional development workshop on 9/1 for \$3,675; Contract with Westfield YMCA for Before/After care services; Agreement with Golden Arrow Transportation for fall sports at rate of \$550/bus; Agreement with Tri-County Behavioral Care for School Clearance and/or Substance Evaluation & Treatment services as needed for 22/23 SY; Watts Foundation donation of \$3,589.46 for DF Media Center shelving; School District Travel; Special Education placements and services; Activity Participation Fees for 22/23.

**Personnel*****As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved: for the 22/23 SY***

Appointment of the following new hires:

Name	Loc.	Position	Salary/Step	Start	End
Catherine Francisco	DF	Sp. Education Teacher	\$54,875 BA Step 1	9/1/22	6/30/23
Brittney Oliveira	DF	Elementary Ed. Teacher	\$57,949 MA Step 1	9/1/22	6/30/23
Vincent Stasio	DF	Middle School Science Teacher	\$63,559 BA Step 9	9/1/22	6/30/23
Christine Kiesewetter	DF	Paraprofessional (3 days/wk)	\$26.05/hr. Step 1	9/1/22	6/30/23
Christine Zagami	DF	Library/Media Asst.	\$15/hour (up to 10 hrs/wk)	9/1/22	6/30/23
Christine Lopez	BW/D F	LDT-C	\$86,656 MA+30 Step 16 (prorated)	10/31/22 Pending paperwork	6/30/23
Antonio Negron	DF	Custodian	\$42,973 (prorated) Step 1 Maint.	9/15/22 Pending paperwork	6/30/22

Appointment of the following Leave Replacement Teachers:

Name	Loc.	Position	Salary/Step	Start	End
Gabriela Karch	BW	Elementary Ed. Teacher	\$54,875 BA Step 1	9/1/22	6/30/23
Madison Phillips	DF	Elementary Ed. Teacher	\$54,875 BA Step 1	9/1/22	6/30/23
Sarah Freer	DF	Elementary Ed. Teacher	\$57,949 MA Step 1 (prorated)	9/12/22	1/23/23
Kirsten Post	DF	Elementary Ed. Teacher	\$57,949 MA Step 1 (prorated)	9/1/22	1/3/23

Acceptance of the following resignations:

Name	Position	Final Date of Employment
Andrea Legiadre	LDT-C	Effective 9/21/22
Laryssa DelGuercio	Special Education Teacher (DF)	Effective immediately
Gary Chan	Science Teacher (DF)	Effective immediately
Kelcie Sweetwood	Paraprofessional (DF)	Effective immediately
Carolee Lavey	Media Assistant (DF)	Effective immediately
Zachary Worswick	Physical Ed. Teacher (BW)	Effective October 21, 2022, unless the position is filled

		prior to this date
Heather Kronengold	Paraprofessional (DF)	Effective immediately

The extended unpaid family leave for Jessica Botkin from 10/10/22-1/1/23; Reimbursement from Desiree Ganz for OG summer course in the amount of \$165; Substitute/Support Staff List; Stipend Positions; Appointment of J. Todd Erwin as Technology Coordinator, at a salary of \$90,000, prorated, pending paperwork, anticipated start date of 10/31/22; Appointment of Gregory Gormly, as Phys. Ed. teacher, at salary of \$66,479, prorated, pending paperwork, anticipated start date of 10/31/22; Staff members participation in a Behavior Intervention Team Planning meeting on 8/30/22 for 3 hrs. each at \$44/hr.

<b>Curriculum</b>	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i>			
	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Teacher in Charge</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
	Camp Bernie	7	Mrs. Chiappetta	Camp: \$ 816 pd. by PTO \$1664 pd. by students Buses: \$1224 pd. by PTO

<b>Policy</b>	<i>BOE had the first reading of the following policies:</i>		
	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
	<i>BOE had the second reading and adoption of the following policies:</i>		
	P 0142.1	Nepotism	Revised
	<i>BOE abolished the following policies/regulations:</i>		
	P 1648.13	School Employee Vaccination Requirements	
P 2432	School Sponsored Publications		

<b>Old Business</b>	None
<b>New Business</b>	Dr. Guidici Pietro mentioned the upcoming PTO Ice Cream Social and Fall Festival are planned, and she and others are pleased to see these traditions returning. Janet mentioned that we are discussing with the Borough the idea of expanding Class II officers in school.
<b>Committee Reports</b>	None
<b>Public Comments</b>	None

Our website: [www.mountainsideschools.org](http://www.mountainsideschools.org)

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