

Mountainside Board of Education

Meeting Highlights

March 22, 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"> February 15, 2022 Regular Session February 15, 2022 1st and 2nd Executive Sessions
Superintendent's Report	Mrs. Walling congratulated participants of the SpongeBob school play and board members commented on the performance, and how nice that senior citizens came to see the show and older students assisted. Mrs. Walling congratulated the PTO Science Fair winners, participants, and volunteers. She congratulated Sophia Huang, for placing 3rd at the district level of Patriot's Pen essay contest. Mrs. Walling commented on the successful PD Workshops that teachers attended on 3/21. She noted there has been no increase of COVID cases since implementing optional masking. Next steps will be to update recess and cafeteria protocols, and to plan additional events later in the school year.
Business Administrator's Report	Mr. Robinson introduced the auditor, who presented a positive report to the board. Mr. Robinson and Mrs. Walling shared the budget presentation, answered various board members' questions, and reviewed the timeline on the remaining steps to finalize the budget.
BH Liaison Report	Mr. Hyman noted there were 2 meetings since his last report. Updates from 3/10 included: the traditional Thanksgiving football game moving to Labor Day weekend for a 2 year trial; Math & Robotics Team events; Doctors Without Borders fundraiser for Ukraine; Several winter sports highlights; statistics shared that 1/3 choose to remain masked in BH; information on mid-year review and strategic goals. GL will be moving from Ipads to Chromebooks, there was a report of spending of Covid funds, and the Hilltop Players will perform on 3/24. From the 3/17 meeting, they approved the tentative budget, including Wifi upgrade, discussed a new DEI plan, various winter sports accomplishments, a presentation on STEAM and related programs, and the GL Environmental Club reported savings from lighting and solar sustainability projects.
Administration	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> BW & DF February safety and security drill reports.
Budget and Finance	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Budget transfers for Feb. 2022; Payment of the Bill List; Board Secretary Reports for Feb. 2022; the FY 2020-2021 audit, and the submission of the CAFR; 22/23 SY tentative budget; Dr. L Haynes and Assoc. to provide home instruction as needed; Dr. Ronald Frank to provide school physician services for the 22/23 SY; Agreement with Golden Arrow Bus Company to provide spring sports transportation; Annual fee for Subscription Busing for the 22/23 SY at \$600; School District Travel.
Personnel	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, BOE approved:</i> The retirement of Stanislaw Sieczkowski, custodian, effective 7/1/22, and thank him for his dedication to the District for over 27 years; Resignation of Ashley Roberts, Special Education Teacher effective 3/10/22; Appointment of Kirsten Post, to the position of 4th Grade Leave Replacement effective 5/18-6/21/22; Addition of Michelle Cruz to the list of ARP Beyond the

School Day day instructors; Addition of T. Hannan, R. Kulka, and C. O'Grady to the Substitute Teacher List for 21-22 pending paperwork and background checks; Child Study Team summer staffing list from 6/22-8/31/22; ESY staffing list from 7/5-8/4/22.

Curriculum	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, BOE approved:</i>				
	Date	Destination	Grade	Teacher in Charge	Estimated Cost
	5/5/22-5/6/22	Washington, D.C.	8	B. Young	\$47,525 total: -\$9,000 -BOE -\$3,040 - PTO -\$28,500- students -\$7,500 Student Activities
	5/3/22	Somerset Patriots Stadium	5	N. Kinney	Paid in full by D.A.R.E.
	5/20/22	Union County Teen Arts at Trailside Nature & Science Center	6-8	V. Tiscia	\$350.00 total: -Bus paid by BOE
	6/3/22	Dorney Park "Music in the Parks"	6-8	J. Rosenblum/ T. Wise	<u>Bus:</u> -\$2,200 bus- MEF -\$2,358 -students <u>Trip:</u> -\$3,687 - students -\$780 - parents
	6/9/22	Trailside Nature & Science Center	5	N. Kinney	\$1,260 - PTO

Policy	<i>BOE had the first reading of the following policies:</i>		
	P 2415.05	Student Surveys, Analysis, Evaluations, Examinations, Testing or Treatment	Revised/Mandated
	R 2460.30	Additional/Compensatory Special Education and Related Services	New/Mandated
	P 9560	Administration of School Surveys	Revised/Mandated
	<i>BOE had the second reading and adoption of the following policies:</i>		
	P 5541	Anti-Hazing	New/Mandated
	P 7540	Joint Use of Facilities	Revised
P 8465	Bias Crimes and Bias-Related Acts	Revised/ Mandated	

Old Business Mrs. Pupo asked about the BH audit, to which Mrs. Walling responded that she is waiting to hear back from them and will update when she has information to share.

New Business Dr. Guidici Pietro mentioned the PTO Spring Fling Fundraiser is coming up on 5/18, which helps PTO generously fund school events, trips and materials. Mr. Hyman questioned the process to review and update the nepotism policy, to which Mr. Ruban Jr. responded. Mrs. Walling pointed out the upcoming class trips, with board members happy to see this return for the students to enjoy again. The board discussed the revised calendar, adjusting days around Memorial Weekend to add a "give back" unused snow day. The board added a motion and approved the revised calendar, contingent on no further snow days needed. Dr. Guidici Pietro congratulated student wrestlers for their accomplishments.

Committee Reports Mr. Dillon commented that the Budget and Finance Committee had reviewed the budget. Mr. Venes noted the Negotiations Committee met and exchanged ideas.

Public Comments None

Our website: www.mountainsideschools.org

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