

# Mountainside Board of Education

## Meeting Highlights

### December 21, 2021



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  
 Michael Falkowski, Interim Business Administrator  
 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"> <li>November 16, 2021 Regular Session</li> <li>November 16, 2021 Executive Session</li> </ul>
Superintendent's Report	Mrs. Walling presented a slideshow highlighting our Educator of the Year winners. She thanked the following staff for their excellence in education: Stephanie DeBaun, Dawn Bladzinski, Lisa Arroyo from Beechwood, and Nina Woo, Sharon Bradley and Julie Goerlich from Deerfield. Mrs. Walling provided information on the ARP grant and how funds would be spent. She commented on the Watts grant that was just received today. She noted the current increase in COVID in the area. She acknowledged the passing of Elena Bentey, a recently retired Life Skills teacher, and her accomplishments in our district. Lastly, Related Arts teachers presented the Board with an overview of their programs.
Business Administrator's Report	Mr. Falkowski gave an update on the Bond Refunding. It was priced on 12/1, and will close on 12/29, saving 3.287%. The present value is \$402,365, with gross savings of \$464,113.
BH Liaison Report	Mr. Hyman reported from the 12/9 meeting where they thanked outgoing Board members. They discussed the National Honor Society, the start of winter sports, and the school performance scheduled for March 24-26th.
Administration	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> BW & DF November safety and security drill reports; HIB summary dated 12/8/21.
Budget and Finance	<i>BOE approved:</i> <i>As certified by the Board Secretary:</i> Budget transfers for November; Payment of the Bill List; Report of the Treasurer of School Monies for November 2021; Reports of the Board Secretary for November 2021. <i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved: (for the 21-22 SY)</i> ARP Grant application and acceptance of funds; School District Travel; Special Education placements and services; Acceptance of Watts Foundation grant funds in the amount of \$22,000, to be used for DF sign, outdoor learning/work spaces and Kindergarten Chromebooks.
Personnel	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, BOE approved:</i> Recognition of Teachers/Ed. Professionals/Support Staff of the Year; Resignation of Kristen Dal Cortivo; Maternity/Family Leave for Kelcie Sweetwood, Paraprofessional, from 2/14/22-6/21/22; Maternity/Family Leave for Jessica Botkin 4th Gr. Teacher, from 3/1/22-10/7/22; Addition of Heather Goldbeck and Jennifer Malgeri to the 21/22 Sub List; Desiree Ganz to provide supplemental instruction 2 hrs/wk. from Oct - June; Stipend positions; list of staff to provide before/after school instruction through the use of ARP Comprehensive Beyond the School Day Activities Grant funds;

	Appointment of Brittany Baldwin, Deerfield School Guidance Counselor, effective 1/24/22, with a prorated salary of \$57,718, Step 1 MA for the 21/22 school year.		
<b>Policy</b>	<b><i>BOE had the first reading of the following policies:</i></b>		
	P 0131	Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations	Revised
	P 5751	Sexual Harassment of Students	Revised/Mandated
	<b><i>BOE had the second reading and adoption of the following policies:</i></b>		
	P 2422	Comprehensive Health and Physical Education	Revised/Mandated
P 8550	Meal Charges/Outstanding Food Services Bill	Revised/Mandated	
P 8600	Student Transportation	Revised/Mandated	
<b>Old Business</b>	Mr. Hyman asked about Start Strong testing, to which Mrs. Walling responded that she will be reporting on this at the January or February board meeting.		
<b>New Business</b>	Mr. Venes went to the county meeting which had a detailed presentation on compiling District Data. Mr. Ruban mentioned that the annual Reorganization Meeting will be on January 4, 2022. Mr. Hyman congratulated the choir performance at Radio City.		
<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](tel:908-232-3232).