

Mountainside Board of Education

Meeting Highlights

October 19, 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	<p>BOE approved minutes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 16, 2021 Special Meeting Regular Session September 21, 2021 Regular Session September 21, 2021 Executive Session
Superintendent's Report	<p>Mrs. Walling gave an update on Start Strong Assessments, that measure learning loss and student progress of 4th-8th graders. Parent reports come out in December, which will be reported publicly within 60 days. Mrs. Walling noted October events for Week of Respect, Red Ribbon Week, World Bully Prevention Day, and School Violence Awareness Week. She thanked school counselors for organizing events, as well as Detective Yasinski who met with every class regarding school violence, vandalism, and speaking with a trusted adult. Mrs. Walling welcomed Interim School Business Administrator, Michael Falkowski. She also talked about Fire Prevention Week and Halloween parades and plans, noting PTO is planning a Trunk or Treat on 10/29.</p>
Business Administrator's Report	<p>Mr. Falkowski gave an update on the Bond Refunding, which is on hold because a 3% savings required by law cannot be met. School may be responsible for the Moody's Rating fee of approximately \$25,000 if the Bond Refunding does not occur.</p>
BH Liaison Report	<p>Mr. Hyman reported that there were 2 BH BOE mtgs. since our last meeting. Discussed on 9/23: approval of 3-yr. contract extension for Dr. Varley, presentation from DEI task force (see report on BH website), Spirit Week, Harry Potter themed recruiting event, Hilltop Players performance of "The Show Must Go On" from 11/18-20, & travel quarantine for students. Discussed on 10/14: a presentation on inclusive priorities for Special Services, HIB/Violence and Vandalism report, 57% of grades 7-12 are vaccinated, status of sports teams & math league, PSAT held on 10/13 and college fair held last week. Next meeting is on 11/20.</p>
Administration	<p>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved: 21/22 Nursing Services Plan; Comprehensive Equity Plan SOA for 21/22; Election of a state funded vendor, Mirimus to provide Covid testing for 21/22; BW & DF September safety and security drill reports.</p>
Budget and Finance	<p>BOE approved: As certified by the Board Secretary: Budget transfers for September; Payment of the Bill List; Report of the Treasurer of School Monies for September 2021; Reports of the Board Secretary for September 2021. As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved: (for the 21-22 SY) Annual Comprehensive Maintenance Plan; Revised Shared Services Agreement for the Class II Officer; MUJC transportation agreement; Superintendent to apply and receive grant funds for ARP IDEA Preschool for \$2,617 & Basic for \$30,637; Stipulation of settlement agreement for student #6526072804; Agreement with respect to student #9074404763; Special Education placements and services; Additional Independent Contractor/Physician/Agency.</p>

Personnel	<p><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, BOE approved:</i> Appointment of lunch aides; List of teachers for virtual instruction due to quarantine; Stipend Positions; Additional names for the 21/22 Substitutes List; Tuition Reimbursement for Julie Lima for a NJIDA Conference for \$150; Increased hours for Lisa Arroyo and Sandra Vendes, paraprofessionals, to assist with dismissal; Suzanne Tighe, paraprofessional, to assist with dismissal as needed; School District Travel.</p>																																				
Curriculum	<p><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, BOE approved</i> field trips for 2021-2022, <i>pending any adjustments due to health and safety guidelines:</i> Mrs. Walling noted that trips will not take place without an alternative to full vaccination, such as proof of a negative COVID test. Board discussed cancellation policies. Regarding # of students vaccinated, she stated schools will soon be required to report statistics to the State. Mrs. Walling also commented about the success of the in-person back to school night.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="381 409 1550 693"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Destination</th> <th>Grade</th> <th>Teacher in Charge</th> <th>Estimated Cost</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>March 30, 2022</td> <td>Broadway, NYC</td> <td>8</td> <td>Rosenblum</td> <td>Paid by Students</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 5-6, 2022</td> <td>Washington, DC</td> <td>8</td> <td>Young</td> <td>\$9,000 paid by BOE \$10,992 various sources \$330 paid per student</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TBD</td> <td>8th Grade Dance Forest Lodge</td> <td>8</td> <td>PTO Event</td> <td>Costs paid by parents and student activities</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	Destination	Grade	Teacher in Charge	Estimated Cost	March 30, 2022	Broadway, NYC	8	Rosenblum	Paid by Students	May 5-6, 2022	Washington, DC	8	Young	\$9,000 paid by BOE \$10,992 various sources \$330 paid per student	TBD	8th Grade Dance Forest Lodge	8	PTO Event	Costs paid by parents and student activities																
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Policy	<p><i>BOE had the first reading of the following policies:</i> <i>Dr. Guidici Pietro asked about emergency days, like snow days, which the board discussed further. The school can go virtual after 3 days of closure due to "Emergency" reasons.</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="381 829 1542 1102"> <tbody> <tr> <td>P 2425</td> <td>Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program</td> <td>New/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 2467</td> <td>Surrogate Parents and Resource Family Parents</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 5111</td> <td>Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 8420</td> <td>Emergency and Crisis Situations</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R 8420.1</td> <td>Fire and Fire Drills</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 8540</td> <td>School Nutrition Programs</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>BOE had the second reading and adoption of the following policies:</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="381 1165 1542 1522"> <tbody> <tr> <td>P 1648.13</td> <td>School Employee Vaccination Requirements</td> <td>New/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 6115.01</td> <td>Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls - Allowability of Costs</td> <td>New/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 6115.02</td> <td>Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls - Mandatory Disclosures</td> <td>New/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 6115.03</td> <td>Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls - Conflict of Interest</td> <td>New/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 6311</td> <td>Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 7432</td> <td>Eye Protection</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	P 2425	Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program	New/Mandated	P 2467	Surrogate Parents and Resource Family Parents	Revised/Mandated	P 5111	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students	Revised/Mandated	P 8420	Emergency and Crisis Situations	Revised/Mandated	R 8420.1	Fire and Fire Drills	Revised/Mandated	P 8540	School Nutrition Programs	Revised/Mandated	P 1648.13	School Employee Vaccination Requirements	New/Mandated	P 6115.01	Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls - Allowability of Costs	New/Mandated	P 6115.02	Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls - Mandatory Disclosures	New/Mandated	P 6115.03	Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls - Conflict of Interest	New/Mandated	P 6311	Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants	Revised/Mandated	P 7432	Eye Protection	Revised/Mandated
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Old Business	None																																				
New Business	Mr. Venes attended the Union County School Boards Mtg, noting the passing of 3 board members. Guest speaker was the Coordinator of School and Community for Westfield, who gave tips on how to handle information, such as sticking to facts at Board meetings, social media, accuracy of information on school's website, etc. Mrs. Pupo had a library mtg. and gave an update on library hours and book sale. Dr. Guidici Pietro commented on PTO's Trunk or Treat to be held in the DF parking lot on 10/29.																																				
Committee Reports	None																																				
Public Comments	A community member commented on concerns over NJ Governor's overreach and concerns of side effects from Covid testing. Another community member mentioned a rally regarding medical freedom, and other covid and vaccine related concerns.																																				

Our website: www.mountainsideschools.org

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