

# Mountainside Board of Education

## Meeting Highlights

### September 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  
 Raymond Slamb, 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><i>BOE approved minutes for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August 24, 2021 Regular Session</li> <li>• August 24, 2021 1st and 2nd Executive Sessions</li> </ul>
Superintendent's Report	<p>Mrs. Walling mentioned our schools' reopenings have gone very well, with lunches running smoothly. Classes spend time outside whenever possible. Upcoming "Start with Hello" week will focus on social/emotional needs of students. Looking forward to Back to School nights on Wednesday at Beechwood, Thursday at Deerfield with one parent per student allowed in-person, and zoom available otherwise. "Start Strong", a state mandated assessment will evaluate learning gaps. The District is continuing to improve transportation issues and arrival/dismissal procedures. Mrs. Walling noted the Lead Water Testing results are posted on the website, and well within proper parameters. Finally, she presented her Merit Goals for 21/22 and answered questions from the board.</p>
Business Administrator's Report	<p>Mr. Slamb provided an update on the Refunding Ordinance, that the underwriter proposals are under review, and there is a motion to move forward with the process. He mentioned the audit for 20/21 has begun, with several documents already sent to them, but it will officially start October 18th.</p>
BH Liaison Report	<p>Mr. Hyman reported from the meeting on 9/9, the next meeting will be on 9/23. Berkeley Heights' presented their Road to Recovery Plan. Fall sports and activities have restarted. "Start Strong" will be used to assess learning gaps, with data to be shared in November. BH teachers received LinkIt training on 9/1-2. Board discussed continuing to Zoom for meetings, but decided to live-stream via YouTube and will take questions via email until the day of the meeting. The Board will host an informal meet &amp; greet coffee hours (dates TBD). Dr. Varley's contract will likely be voted on 9/23. The Special Education Director will provide information on all things special education at the 10/23 meeting. This will include information on the new inclusive model which began to be implemented last year.</p>
Administration	<p><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i>                      Superintendent's Merit Goals for 21/22; Use of Paraprofessional Staff for 21/22 SOA; SSDS Report 20/21; Health &amp; Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklist for BW and DF 21/22.</p>
Budget and Finance	<p><i>BOE approved:</i>  <i>As certified by the Board Secretary:</i>                      Budget transfers for August; Payment of the Bill List; Report of the Treasurer of School Monies for August 2021; Reports of the Board Secretary for August 2021.  <i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved: (for the 21-22 SY)</i>                      Golden Arrow and MUJC agreements for fall sports transportation; Agreement with Lerch, Vinci &amp; Higgins to audit 19/20 &amp; 20/21 send/receive tuition rates and resource room costs; Agreement with Trinitas Children's Therapy Services for additional OT services during ESY in the amount of \$525; Appointment of Michael Falkowski as Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary from 9/27/21-6/30/22 at \$600 per diem rate; Contract with</p>

	School Business Office LLC to provide services from 9/27/21-6/30/22; Michael Falkowski appointed as Custodian of Records, signor on all bank accounts, and District Qualified Purchasing Agent.		
<b>Refunding Ordinance</b>	<b><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, BOE approved:</i></b> A refunding school bond ordinance providing for the refunding of all or a portion of its outstanding school bonds dated July 17, 2014.		
<b>Personnel</b>	<b><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, BOE approved:</i></b> Rate adjustment for Kirsten Post, Leave Replacement at rate of \$190 from Sept 22-Nov 2, 2021; Additional summer hours for Eileen D'Antonio; Kristy Rubin and Diane Zagorski added to substitute list for 21-22 pending paperwork and successful criminal history; list of teachers for virtual instruction due to quarantine; Julie Lima notification to take OG recertification class; Ellie Barkin-Baron request for tuition reimbursement for 3 graduate credits; Resignation of Solomon Charley as Girls' Head Soccer Coach; Samantha Grindlinger to position of Girls' Head Soccer Coach at rate of \$3,189 for 21-22 season; Stipend Positions; List of regular volunteers; School District Travel.		
<b>Policy</b>	<b><i>BOE had the first reading of the following policies:</i></b>		
	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 6331	Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants	Revised/Mandated
	P 7432	Eye Protection	Revised/Mandated
	<b><i>BOE had the second reading and adoption of the following policies:</i></b>		
	P 1648.11	The Road Forward COVID-19 – Health and Safety	New/Mandated
	P/R 3221	Evaluation of Teachers	Revised/Mandated
	P/R 3222	Evaluation of Teaching Staff Members, Excluding Teachers and Administrators	Revised/Mandated
	P/R 3223	Evaluation of Administrators, Excluding Principals, Vice-Principals, and Assistant Principals	Revised/Mandated
	P/R 3224	Evaluation of Principals, Vice-Principals, and Assistant Principals	Revised/Mandated
	<b><i>BOE abolished the following policies:</i></b>		
P 5114	Children Displaced by Domestic Violence		
P 8810	Religious Holidays		
<b>Old Business</b>	None		
<b>New Business</b>	Mr. Dillon asked for updates on locker usage, to which Mrs. Walling responded. Library Liaison, Mrs. Pupo noted the hours are changing as of 10/18 as follows: T/TH 10am-8pm, W/F 1pm-8pm, and starting 10/1, Sat. 10am-5pm. There is a welcoming committee for new residents providing membership and Friends of the Library information. Mr. Dillon and Mr. Hyman thanked and congratulated Mr. Slamb.		
<b>Committee Reports</b>	<b><i>Budget &amp; Finance Committee:</i></b> Mr. Dillon reported that they reviewed the Refunding Ordinance and recommended moving forward with it.		
<b>Public Comments</b>	A community member commented on medical freedom.		

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).