

Mountainside Board of Education

Meeting Highlights

July 27, 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"> June 22, 2021 Regular Session June 22, 2021 1st & 2nd Executive Sessions
Superintendent's Report	<p>Mrs. Walling welcomed Mrs. Vierschilling who's begun her work at Beechwood and noted Mrs. Jenks has transitioned to Deerfield. Both principals are hard at work with scheduling and planning for the 21-22 school year. Mrs. Walling submitted our Reopening Plan to the state, and she will work on updates as guidance continues to change. She met with Maschio's Food Service on lunchtime logistics, and the Westfield Health Department and Dr. Frank for medical guidance. The Health Department will be offering a vaccination clinic at Mountainside Pool Club, this is open to anyone ages 12 and older. She stated that she has been informed that there is currently a low vaccination rate (below 40%) for 12-17 year olds in Mountainside. Mrs. Walling met with Administrators, MEA Co-Presidents & Reopening Committee for ideas and plans for September. Mrs. Walling was happy to report very positive feedback from the Summer Learning Academy, and anticipates being able to offer it again next summer with remaining federal funding. She noted the district is looking to fill several positions (leave replacements, soccer coaches, lunch aides, and part-time custodians), which will be advertised further in the community.</p>
Business Administrator's Report	<p>Mr. Slamb provided an update on the transportation with Durham. He also provided an update on various projects. The board asked questions about the LED Direct Install Program, the BW sidewalk and new outside tables, to which he responded.</p>
BH Liaison Report	<p>Mr. Hyman attended the 1st in-person meeting on 7/22, the next mtg. will be 8/12, where action on Dr. Varley's contract may be taken. The 7/22 mtg. was held to interview board candidates to replace the late Helen Kirsch. Ramya Kasthuri was selected. BH approved a new BA, Julie Kot.</p>
Administration	<p><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Superintendent's Merit Goals have been approved for payment from the 20-21 SY; BW & DF June safety and security drill reports.</p>
Budget and Finance	<p><i>BOE approved:</i> <i>As certified by the Board Secretary:</i> Budget transfers for June; Payment of the Bill List; Report of the Treasurer of School Monies for June 2021; Reports of the Board Secretary for June 2021. <i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved: (for the 21-22 SY)</i> Agreement for Fixed Asset Reporting with Duff & Phelps, LLC for \$1,350; Revised 403b Plan Document; Tree Removal at BW to Rich's Tree Service for \$4,706.23; Purchase of outside tables for \$3853.98 at each school from Barco Products; Purchase of cafeteria tables for DF from Nickerson NJ, Inc. for \$15,834; Purchase of STEM Lab Phase I project equipment from Nickerson NJ, Inc. for \$15,685.47 and \$14,065 for furniture; PO for BW sidewalks to JWH & Sons Contractors for \$10,750 after receiving multiple higher quotes; PO for foodservice equipment for DF from Singer M. Tucker for \$10,169.42 and \$3,759.62 after receiving multiple higher</p>

	quotes; Acceptance of PTO donation of \$8,900; Contract with YMCA for Before/After care services for \$14,640; Agreement with Learning to Thrive, LLC. for professional development workshops and webinars; Registration for MUJC Spring Music Festival for \$1,645; Sole bid awarded to Durham School Services, L.P., for transportation for \$354,101.29; Agreement with Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences Univ. Behavioral Healthcare to provide therapeutic services to students and families as referred for \$24,900; Acceptance of CRRSA Act and ESSER II grant of \$247,027, portions of which to be used for learning acceleration and mental health support services between 3/12/20 and 9/30/23; School District Travel and PD Requests; Special Education placements and services.												
Personnel	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, BOE approved:</i> Appointment of Ashley Roberts, Spec. Ed LLD Teacher in BW at \$62,820 Step 7 MA for 21/22 SY; Resignation of Kelly Bakker, 2nd Gr. Teacher; Updated salary and step of Desiree Ganz to be \$63,356 Step 5 MA+30 for the 21/22 SY; Sue Tarulli for summer nursing services at \$43.29/hr. for up to 4hrs./wk. from 7/16-8/31/21; ESEA Title I personnel, Kaitlin Elliot and Dayna Carroll; Appointment of lunch aides, J. DiPaola, C. Kiesewetter, L. Klein at \$14/hr, and C. Lavey as Library Asst. at \$14/hr.; Appointment of C. Berger, Boys' Head Soccer Coach and Nicole Cruts, Boys' Asst. Soccer Coach; Rescinding leave replacement position approved on 6/22/21 and appointment of Laurie Naftulin as 2nd Gr. teacher at \$58,718 Step 3 MA; Resignation of Raymond Slamb, Business Administrator, effective 9/24/21.												
Policy	<i>BOE had the first reading of the following policies:</i> <table border="1" data-bbox="381 672 1542 856"> <tr> <td>P/R 6471</td> <td>School District Travel</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 7243</td> <td>Supervision of Construction</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 7510</td> <td>Use of School Facilities</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> </table> <i>BOE had the second reading and adoption of the following policies:</i> <table border="1" data-bbox="381 934 1534 1024"> <tr> <td>P8561</td> <td>Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> </table>	P/R 6471	School District Travel	Revised/Mandated	P 7243	Supervision of Construction	Revised/Mandated	P 7510	Use of School Facilities	Revised/Mandated	P8561	Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs	Revised/Mandated
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Old Business	None												
New Business	The Board discussed an adjustment to the format of future Board meetings. The determination was made that moving forward, BOE meetings will be in person with live-streaming, rather than a Zoom or call-in option. All meetings will continue to be posted to the District website as well. <i>Library Liaison:</i> Mr. Hyman reported that summer hours will continue in Aug. and the masking policy will be addressed monthly. The library is exploring in-person children's programs and the kiosk picture archive project will hopefully be complete in the fall. Mrs. Richards will reach out to Library representatives with kiosk updates.												
Committee Reports	<i>Budget & Finance Committee:</i> Group met on 6/28 with updates on food service purchases, STEM Project Phase I, BW walkway, and other previously mentioned projects. Changes in the District's risk insurance coverage were also discussed.												
Public Comments	None												

Our website: www.mountainsideschools.org

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