

Mountainside Board of Education

Meeting Highlights

February 23, 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
 Kimberly Richards, Principal - Deerfield School
 Suzanne Jenks, 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"> January 26, 2021 Regular and Executive Sessions
Board Presentations	Hodulik & Morrison, P.A provided an Audit Presentation for the 19-20 SY; Board Attorney, Mrs. Isabel Machado overviewed the annual Board Ethics Presentation.
Superintendent's Report	Mrs. Walling provided updates about BW 100th day activities and some of the creative activities and opportunities in which students can participate; She noted all grades are completing benchmarks and the administrators and staff are meeting to review data on student growth. Mrs. Walling mentioned the next transition date is Mar. 1 for students to return to in-person instruction. She and Dr. Varley will be presenting at Thursday's Berkeley Heights BOE meeting about collaborative activities and programming between our districts. Mrs. Walling reviewed spring activities and sports, noting Mr. Rosenblum is working on virtual play, maintaining cohorts for over 100 students; Baseball/Softball coaches and admin. are examining safety protocols and using a game assistant to help ensure health and safety guidelines for the season; There may be opportunities for wrestling at BH and we are looking at safety protocols to see if it is possible.
Business Administrator's Report	Mr. Slamb provided an update to the touchless upgrade project; He noted the 1 yr. extension of the food services contract; Mr. Slamb mentioned the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II projected allocation is \$247,000, and he will apply when the application opens Mar. 15th.
BH Liaison Report	Mr. Hyman reported that BH approved full day Kindergarten for Sept. The district was featured on TODAY show about teaching during the pandemic. He noted GL's rolling return to winter sports, with streaming info on the website, and the Governor's recent order allowing parents to attend games. GL had 30 students partake in American Math Competition and 20 sit for the National Spanish Exam. There was a presentation by the Diversity Taskforce consultant to guide overall strategic plan in this area. Spring musical will be virtual at GL. Finally, there was a presentation on the parent feedback survey from Dec. on instruction so far this year.
Administration	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSDS Report; SEMI waiver approval for 21-22 SY; BW & DF safety and security drill reports.
Budget and Finance	<i>BOE approved.</i> <i>As certified by the Board Secretary:</i> Budget transfers for January; Payment of the Bill List; Reports of the Board Secretary for January 2021. <i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit of FY 19-20 and submission of CAFR; FY 19-20 Corrective Action Plan (CAP); Emergency SSO Breakfast Contract with Maschio's; School District Travel.

Personnel	<p><i>As recommended by the Superintendent, BOE approved:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfer of Mrs. Jenks from BW to DF Principal for the 21-22 SY; Contract for Mrs. Jenks as DF Principal for 21-22 SY; Extended unpaid medical leave for Employee #91011247 until 4/2/21; Extended appointment of Teresa Banks as 6th Gr. Leave Replacement; Appointment of Erin Kraven to 2nd Gr. Leave Replacement effective 3/3/21-6/18/21; Maternity Leave for Amanda Roy effective 5/10/21-6/18/21 and FMLA leave from 9/1/21-11/24/21; Nara Sterba to serve as mentor to Gillian Furniss; Appointment of Melinda Medina, MEM Education Services LLC, to provide LDT-C services from 2/24/21-6/30/21. 																														
Policy	<p><i>BOE had the first reading of the following policies:</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="381 388 1546 640"> <tr> <td>Bylaw 0145</td> <td>Board Member Resignation and Removal</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 2431</td> <td>Athletic Competition</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R 2431.1</td> <td>Emergency Procedures for Sports and Other Athletic Activity</td> <td>New/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 4125</td> <td>Support Staff Members</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>BOE had the second reading and adoption of the following policies:</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="381 682 1546 1018"> <tr> <td>P 1620</td> <td>Administrative Employee Contracts</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P/R 5330.05</td> <td>Seizure Action Plan</td> <td>New/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 6440</td> <td>Cooperative Purchasing</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P/R 6470.01</td> <td>Electronic Funds Transfer & Claimant Certification</td> <td>New/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P/R 7440</td> <td>School District Security</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P 7450</td> <td>Property Inventory</td> <td>Revised/Mandated</td> </tr> </table>	Bylaw 0145	Board Member Resignation and Removal	Revised/Mandated	P 2431	Athletic Competition	Revised/Mandated	R 2431.1	Emergency Procedures for Sports and Other Athletic Activity	New/Mandated	P 4125	Support Staff Members	Revised/Mandated	P 1620	Administrative Employee Contracts	Revised/Mandated	P/R 5330.05	Seizure Action Plan	New/Mandated	P 6440	Cooperative Purchasing	Revised/Mandated	P/R 6470.01	Electronic Funds Transfer & Claimant Certification	New/Mandated	P/R 7440	School District Security	Revised/Mandated	P 7450	Property Inventory	Revised/Mandated
Bylaw 0145	Board Member Resignation and Removal	Revised/Mandated																													
P 2431	Athletic Competition	Revised/Mandated																													
R 2431.1	Emergency Procedures for Sports and Other Athletic Activity	New/Mandated																													
P 4125	Support Staff Members	Revised/Mandated																													
P 1620	Administrative Employee Contracts	Revised/Mandated																													
P/R 5330.05	Seizure Action Plan	New/Mandated																													
P 6440	Cooperative Purchasing	Revised/Mandated																													
P/R 6470.01	Electronic Funds Transfer & Claimant Certification	New/Mandated																													
P/R 7440	School District Security	Revised/Mandated																													
P 7450	Property Inventory	Revised/Mandated																													
New Business	<p><u>PTO Liaison</u>, Dr. Guidici Pietro reported Parent Education Night will be via zoom 3/8, discussing coping with loss during the pandemic; <u>Library Liaison</u>, Ms. Pupo reported a possible interactive kiosk to display Digital Archive of DF school murals depending on grant funding, and drive-up is still available while they remain closed; Mr. Dillon asked if there is any concern to returning students and maintaining distancing, to which Mrs. Walling responded; Mrs. Schiano asked if any classes had all students back in-person, to which Mrs. Walling responded.</p>																														
Committee Reports	<p><u>Budget and Finance</u>: Mr. Dillon reported they met 2/10 to review Mrs. Jenks contract, auditor's recommendations and CAP and CAFR, and the touchless upgrades project. <u>Curriculum</u>: Mrs. Schiano reported on the areas that were revised last year and what areas are still in the works, she discussed alignment with BH in the area of math and the possibility of alignment with the ELA program, she noted that research regarding social studies curriculum is being completed, and that there will be updated NJ standards. <u>Strategic Planning</u>: Mrs. Schiano said they evaluated goals and progress, and hope to meet monthly, and she again noted our alignment with BH; <u>Community Outreach</u>: Mr. Hyman discussed stakeholders in the community and ways to ensure strong communication. <u>Grants & Alternate Funding</u>: Mr. Hyman reviewed with the committee current grants and how previous grants were utilized like Watts, Sustainable Jersey, MEF and PTO. They reviewed historic grants and Mr. Slamb will look back to their usage. They will develop a wish list for future grants. <u>Health & Wellness</u>: Dr. Guidici Pietro discussed Covid-19 protocols and thanked admin. for efforts to keep schools open. They discussed SEL programming, and counselor's corner.</p>																														
Public Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 																														

Our website: www.mountainsideschools.org

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