

# Mountainside Board of Education

## Meeting Highlights

### January 26, 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	<p><b>BOE approved minutes for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>December 15, 2020 Regular and Executive Session</li> <li>January 5, 2021 Reorganization Meeting</li> </ul>
Superintendent's Report	<p>Mrs. Walling recognized current and past board members; She honored Teachers, Ed. Service Professionals and Support Staff of the Year; Mrs. Walling provided updates on mid-year benchmarks administered by i-Ready and LinkIt, and noted the student population is about 88% in-person after our 3rd transition; Looking forward to next year's planning, we are currently staying with the same structure, with ½ day PEAK and exploring ways to expand on meeting students' needs; Exploring expansion of Special Education with a self-contained classroom at Beechwood, to increase services and programming for students.</p>
Business Administrator's Report	<p>Mr. Slamb said the CAFR submission will be on Feb. 5th and the auditor will have a presentation at the February Board meeting. The project to upgrade to touchless faucets and flushometers have supplies in stock, we are just waiting on delivery and installation to be scheduled. Mr. Slamb is preparing our projections for the March 22nd adoption of the tentative budget for 21-22.</p>
BH Liaison Report	<p>Mr. Hyman reported that they held their meeting on Jan. 7th, electing Doug Reinstein, President and Mike D'Aquila, VP. Cohort A returned to live instruction this week. GL is putting together a new Diversity/Equity/Inclusion Task Force and offering 2 new electives on race in 21st America and History of Hip Hop/Rap. Gender neutral restrooms have opened at GL. There is a staggered return to winter sports with no spectators and events live-streamed instead. The next meeting will be on Feb. 4th.</p>
Administration	<p><b>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognition of our board's excellent work for School Board Recognition Month; SOA Regarding the Use of Paraprofessional Staff for 20-21 SY; Health and Safety Evaluation of Buildings Checklist SOA for 20-21; Various curriculum documents; Revision to the 20-21 calendar; BW &amp; DF safety and security drill reports.</li> </ul>
Budget and Finance	<p><b>BOE approved:</b>  <b>As certified by the Board Secretary:</b>                      Budget transfers for December; Payment of the Bill List; Reports of the Board Secretary for December 2020.</p> <p><b>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission of amendment of the Long Range Facilities Plan to the DOE; Appointment of Raymond Slamb as School Alliance Insurance Fund Commissioner; Valley Bank to act as depository for public funds; Authorization of Raymond Slamb as Qualified Purchasing Agent and sets the bid threshold at \$44,000; PEAK tuition rate for 21-22 SY at \$4,000 for 5 half day sessions; Agreement with LearnWell Education for 10 hrs. of services per week at \$50/hr; School District Travel.</li> </ul>

**Personnel*****As recommended by the Superintendent, BOE approved:***

- Recognition of BW and DF 2021 Teachers/Service Professionals and Support Staff of the Year; Retirement of Kim Richards, effective 6/30/21; Retirement of Pat Debbie, effective 12/31/20; Resignation of Victoria Tiscia from her stipend Art Club Advisor positions effective 2/5/21; Appointment of Gillian Furniss, Art Teacher (Leave Replacement) from 3/5/21-6/18/2 and to be added to the 20-21 Substitute List; Extended appointment of Teresa Banks, 6th Gr. (Leave Replacement) from 1/15/21-2/2021; Natalie Crisafulli to complete 150 internship hours; Ellie Barkin-Baron to complete internship hours; Medical leave of absence for Employee #91011247 from 1/12/21-2/10/21; Christine Kiesewetter to serve as a substitute paraprofessional for 20-21 SY; 20-21 Stipend positions as follows:

Activity	Staff	Rate
Art Club Advisor -Gr. 3/4	Gillian Furniss	\$34.07/session NTE 14 sessions (prorated for partial year)
Art Club Advisor -Gr. 5/6	Taylor Donato	\$34.07/session NTE 15 sessions (prorated for partial year)
Art Club Advisor -Gr. 3/7/8	Gillian Furniss	\$34.07/session NTE 11 sessions (prorated for partial year)

**Policy*****BOE had the first reading of the following policies:***

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

***BOE had the second reading and adoption of the following policies:***

P 2431.3	Heat Participation Policy for Student-Athlete Safety	Revised/Mandated
P/R 5330.04	Administering an Opioid Antidote	Revised/Mandated
P 5620	Expulsion	Revised/Mandated
P 8420	Emergency and Crisis Situations	Revised/Mandated
P 2431.3	Heat Participation Policy for Student-Athlete Safety	Revised/Mandated

**New Business**

Mr. Hyman reported the public library has 3 new Board of Trustees, including Mrs. Pupo. They are open for curbside pick up, and hope to reopen in the future. Mrs. Walling confirmed their flyer to sign up for new library cards is part of the kindergarten packet going out to families.

**Committee Reports**

Mr. Dillion reported that the Budget and Finance Committee met twice and discussed PEAK tuition, excess surplus utilization and reserve deposits, Special Ed. expansion, and the many yet unknown variables for next year's budget. Mrs. Walling will be setting up other committee meetings in the next few weeks.

**Public Participation**

Steven Matejek introduced himself as new Borough of Mountainside Liaison to the Board of Education. He is a resident, parent and alumni, and looks forward to working with the board.

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.