

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
September 24, 2024**

MOUNTAINSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

BEECHWOOD SCHOOL - 1497 WOODACRES DRIVE, MOUNTAINSIDE, NJ 07092
DEERFIELD SCHOOL - 302 CENTRAL AVENUE, MOUNTAINSIDE, NJ 07092

For agenda attachments available to the public, please contact the Mountainside Board of Education Office at (908) 232-3232 or peruse same at the respective meeting.

Also, Mountainside Board of Education policies may be accessed via the district website.

I. Call to Order

A Regular Meeting of the Mountainside Board of Education of the Borough of Mountainside in the County of Union, New Jersey was called to order by Vivian Pupo, at 6:38 p.m.

II. Roll Call

At roll call, the following members were present:

Mr. Bill Dillon - arrived at 7:50
Mr. Michael Goodwin
Dr. Dana Guidici Pietro
Mrs. Vivian Pupo
Mrs. Candice Schiano
Mr. Carmine Venes

Also present were Janet Walling, Superintendent of Schools, and Dana Sullivan, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

Mr. Jordan Hyman was absent.

III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro

Seconded: Mr. Goodwin

RC: Dillon -absent

Goodwin - yes

Guidici Pietro - yes Hyman - absent

Pupo - yes

Schiano - yes

Venes - yes

WHEREAS, Section 7 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 (R.S. 10:4-13), permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting or portion of a meeting of this public body in circumstances; and **WHEREAS**, the Board must consider matter(s) involving the following:

- Legal/personnel matters

The disclosure of which could constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy; now

WHEREAS, the discussion of individual items to be considered by the Board in closed session may be made public once the need for confidentiality no longer exists, but the Board cannot state at the present time then that will be.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board adjourns to executive session at 6:39 p.m. to discuss the above mentioned matter to the exclusion of all others. Matters discussed may or may not be made public this evening. If an action results, it will be taken following reentry into regular session.

IV. Close Executive Session and Reconvene Public Session

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro Seconded: Mr. Goodwin
RC: Dillon -absent Goodwin - yes Guidici Pietro - yes Hyman - absent
 Pupo - yes Schiano - yes Venes - yes

The public meeting reconvened at 7:37 p.m.

V. Flag Salute

VI. Approval of Minutes

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro Seconded: Mr. Venes
RC: Dillon - absent Goodwin - yes Guidici Pietro -yes Hyman-absent
 Pupo - yes Schiano -yes Venes - yes

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 20, 2024
- ❖ Minutes of the 1st Executive Session of August 20, 2024
- ❖ Minutes of the 2nd Executive Session of August 20, 2024
- ❖ Minutes of the Special Meeting of September 16, 2024
- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of the September 16, 2024

VII. Correspondence - none

VIII. Public Participation - none

IX. President's Report - Mrs. Pupo congratulated Deerfield School's recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School. She thanked the faculty, students, and community for their dedication to making this possible.

X. Superintendent's Report - Mrs. Walling reported on a smooth school reopening. Staff participated in a team building Olympics on opening days along with important professional trainings. Mrs. Walling attended the first PTO meeting to share information on the upcoming Public Question on the ballot in November. She spoke about the budget impact of the 2% cap, and hopes of building a more sustainable base to work off of in the future. She noted the loss of ARP and Title I funding that has had an impact on programming as well. There will be 3 upcoming community forums to hear more information and ask questions about the Public Question. Mrs. Walling presented ACCESS for ELL test results, with broad information on English language proficiency for students identified as needing support. Next month she will report NJSLA results. She then shared QSAC score results that just came in, and the requirement to create an improvement plan for the one area under 80%. Finally, she shared the exciting news of Deerfield's National recognition as a 2024 Blue Ribbon School. She is so proud of the leadership of Mrs.

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Jenks, the hard work of our teachers, staff, and students, as well as the support of the community to make the Mountainside School District a great place for education, and Deerfield an exemplary high performing school.

XI. Business Administrator's Report - none

XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report - none

XIII. Administration

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Administration #1-4**

Moved: <u>Mr. Goodwin</u>	Seconded: <u>Mrs. Schiano</u>		
RC: Dillon -absent	Goodwin - yes	Guidici Pietro - yes	Hyman - absent
Pupo - yes	Schiano - yes	Venes - yes	

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Statement of Assurance Regarding the Use of Paraprofessional Staff for the 2024-2025 School Year. (Attachment #2)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2024-2025 Professional Development Plan Statement of Assurance. (Attachment #3)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2024-2025 Mentoring Plan Statement of Assurance. (Attachment #4)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the School Safety and Security Plan.

XIV. Budget and Finance

Mrs. Walling commented that she is pleased to approve #4 CarePlus services to replace TriCounty Behavioral Health after receiving positive feedback from other districts. If the Public Question passes, they understand our desire to expand our mental health services with them.

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-9**

Moved: <u>Dr. Guidici Pietro</u>	Seconded: <u>Mrs. Schiano</u>		
RC: Dillon -yes	Goodwin - yes	Guidici Pietro - yes	Hyman - absent
Pupo - yes	Schiano - yes	Venes - yes	

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the months of July and August 2024. (Attachment #5)
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated August 21, 2024, through September 26, 2024 (Attachment #6).
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the months of July and August 2024 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the months of July and August 2024; and

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WHEREAS, the Board Secretary, Dana Sullivan, certifies that subject to the approval of budget transfers appended to these minutes, payment of the claims set forth in the accompanying bill list will not result in the over expenditure of any budget line item appropriation, as modified to date set forth in the level of detail contained in the Reports of the Board Secretary for July and August 2024:

RESOLVED THAT, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the months of July and August 2024 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for July and August 2024 as submitted and certified (Attachment #7).

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with CarePlus to provide In-District Counseling Services to students and families referred by school district personnel for the 2024-25 school year, 1 day per week in the amount of \$27,000, with an anticipated start date of October 1st (Attachment #8)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the Watts Foundation donation of \$2,000 to be used towards author assemblies and staff professional development for grades 3-8. (Attachment #9)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the PTO donation for student activities of \$3,500, to be used towards the school musical (Attachment #10)
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the Emma Real Estate Group donation for student activities of \$250, to be used towards the school music and theater program, in the name of Joanne and Ethan Danberry. (Attachment #11)
8. Move to approve in accordance with MBOE policy 6471, School District Travel, and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the travel, professional development requests, and related expenses itemized in (Attachment #12). This travel is deemed educationally necessary and fiscally prudent, and all travel expenditures shall be directly related to and within the scope of the staff member's current responsibilities and the district's Professional Development Plan. All reimbursements shall be made in accordance with state guidelines 18A:11-12.
9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, special education placements and services as per (Attachment #13)

XV. Personnel

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Personnel #1-8**

Moved: Mrs. Schiano Seconded: Mr. Goodwin

RC: Dillon -yes Goodwin -yes Guidici Pietro - yes Hyman - absent
 Pupo - yes Schiano - yes Venes - yes

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New personnel employment appointments are contingent upon the required state and federal criminal history background checks (in accordance with N.J.S.A. CH 116, P.L. 1986), required certification, and completion of employee paperwork).

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of the following new hires for the 2024-2025 school year (Attachment #14):

Name	Loc.	Position	Salary/Step	Start	End
Shadik Phillips	DF	Custodian	\$50,188 Step 11 (prorated)	10/7/24 <i>or sooner if released</i>	6/30/25
Ziad Jabri	DF	Lunch Aide	\$15.25/hr.	9/25/24	6/30/25
Kirsten Post	DF	Part-time 5th Gr. Teacher	\$35,649 <i>(50% of \$71,298)</i> MA Step 11 (prorated)	9/25/24	6/30/24

2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following resignations (Attachment #15):

Name	Position	Final Date of Employment
Michelle Cruz	Special Education Teacher	Effective 10/18/24
Becky Tafaro	Part-Time Special Ed. Teacher	Effective 9/8/24
*Deb Conley	<i>4th Grade Teacher</i>	<i>*Effective 8/31/24</i>
Zachary Lipshitz	PE/Health Teacher	Effective 11/17/24

**Revised final date of employment as previously approved on 8/20/24*

3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to increase hours for the following staff by up to 30 minutes per day to assist with dismissal, for the 24-25 school year.

Natalie Crisafulli (M-F)	Kathleen Goldbeck (M-F)	Suzanne Tighe (M-W)
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4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff members to serve as mentors during the 2024-2025 school year:

Staff Member	Assignment (dates are approx.)	Fee Amount
Christine Delaney	Nicole Mortola 30 weeks: 9/30/24-4/30/25	\$550 (CEAS)

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5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of the following to the 2024-2025 Substitute Teacher List, pending paperwork and successful criminal background check. (Attachment #16)

Name	Certification	Rate
Ziad Jabri	Sub Cert	\$115
Ana Arias	Sub Cert	\$115
Doneta Christian	Sub Cert	\$115
Heather Kronengold	Teacher Certification	\$125

6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff for 2024-2025 School Year Stipend Positions, contingent upon student enrollment for those student activities subsidized in accordance with Board Policy 2436, Activity Participation Fee Program.

Staff Member	Position	Rate
Monica Salamanca	Asst. Girls' Soccer Coach	\$2,276 (1-2 yr. rate)
James Mikula	Band Director (Lessons)	\$43/session <i>NTE 60 sessions</i>
James Mikula	Jazz Band Director	\$43/session <i>NTE 60 sessions</i>
James Mikula	Recreation Club Asst.(Fall)	\$36/session <i>NTE 15 sessions</i>
Shea Cody	Recreation Club Asst. (Fall)	\$36/session <i>NTE 15 sessions</i>
Greg Gormly	Recreation Club Supervisor	\$36/session <i>NTE 30 sessions</i>
Greg Gormly	Chess Club Advisor K-2	\$36/session <i>NTE 30 sessions</i>

7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the request for reimbursement for classes from **Jennifer Smith**, PEAK Teacher, for classes taken at TCNJ for the 2024 Summer Sessions for three (3) graduate credits in the amount of \$1,995. (Attachment #17)
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the request for reimbursement for classes from **Sue Goracy**, 2nd Grade Teacher, for classes taken at Idaho State University for the 2024 Summer Sessions for twelve (12) graduate credits in the amount of \$660. (Attachment #18)

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XVI. Policy

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Policy #1-2**

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro Seconded: Mrs. Schiano
 RC: Dillon -yes Goodwin - yes Guidici Pietro - yes Hyman - absent
 Pupo - yes Schiano - yes Venes - yes

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following policies/regulations for the first reading:

P 5350	Student Suicide Prevention	Revised/Mandated
P 8420	Emergency and Crisis Situations	Revised/Mandated

2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following policies/regulations for the second reading and adoption:

P 2200	Curriculum Content	Revised/Mandated
P/R 3160	Physical Examinations	Revised/Mandated
P/R 4160	Physical Examinations	Revised/Mandated
P 8467	Firearms and Weapons	Revised/Mandated
P 9181	Volunteer Athletic Coaches and Co-Curricular Activity Advisors/Assistants	Revised

XVII. Old Business - none

XVIII. New Business - Dr. Guidici Pietro reminded everyone that the PTO's Fall Festival will be on October 5th, along with PAL Cop Trot, and Rotary Club's pickleball tournament.

XIX. Committee Reports - Mrs. Walling anticipates a Strategic Planning committee meeting in October/November to discuss the new 5-year plan.

XX. Public Participation - none

XXI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Dr. Guidici Pietro at 8:38 p.m., seconded by Mr. Goodwin to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 6 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dana Sullivan
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary