

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
August 20, 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 Dr. Guidici Pietro, at 7:05 p.m.

II. Roll Call

At roll call, the following members were present:

Mr. Bill Dillon - arrived at 7:46
Mr. Michael Goodwin
Dr. Dana Guidici Pietro
Mr. Jordan Hyman
Mrs. Candice Schiano
Mr. Carmine Venes

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

Mrs. Vivian Pupo was absent.

III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

Moved: Mr. Hyman

Seconded: Mrs. Schiano

RC: Dillon -absent
Pupo - absent

Goodwin - yes
Schiano - yes

Guidici Pietro - yes
Hyman - 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.

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
August 20, 2024**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board adjourns to executive session at 7:07 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: <u>Mr. Hyman</u>	Seconded: <u>Mr. Venes</u>		
RC: Dillon - absent	Goodwin - yes	Guidici Pietro - yes	Hyman - yes
Pupo - absent	Schiano - yes	Venes - yes	

The public meeting reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

V. Flag Salute

VI. Approval of Minutes

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

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 18, 2024
- ❖ Minutes of the 1st Executive Session of June 18, 2024
- ❖ Minutes of the 2nd Executive Session of June 18, 2024

VII. Correspondence - Thank you note to the Board from Mrs. Ciasulli.

VIII. Public Participation - none

IX. President's Report - none

X. Superintendent's Report - Mrs. Walling reported that Summer Learning Academy and Extended School Year wrapped up and went well. This was the last year for Summer Learning Academy due to the end of ARP funding, but can be revisited in the future. Genesis will be opening on Friday at 3:00 for schedules and teacher assignments. Note that fines must be paid before access will be available. New staff orientation will be taking place next week on Wednesday and Thursday. Mrs. Crisafulli and Mrs. Cruz will meet with staff to go over our math and reading curriculum. All staff will be returning after Labor Day for mandated training and other essential overviews; Grades K-3 will have the opportunity to visit classrooms, and there's a 6th Grade Orientation for parents. Mrs. Walling thanked custodial staff for getting the buildings ready, and thanked her administrators and office staff for their hard work over the summer. In technology, we will finish updating cameras and new copiers next week. Necessary tree removal has concluded. We look forward to having students back.

XI. Business Administrator's Report - Mrs. Sullivan noted we replaced all of our network switches which was a big project, partially funded by E-rate. HVAC projects are on the agenda to affirm necessary services to these systems These projects will be completed in the next few weeks. The

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
August 20, 2024**

7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Student Safety Data System Report for the 2023 - 2024 school year, which includes HIB incidents, Trainings, and Programs. (Attachment #4)
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Student Handbooks for the 2024-2025 school year for Beechwood, Deerfield Grades 3-5 and Deerfield Grades 6-8. (Attachments 5, 6, 7)
9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools June and July 2024 safety and security drill reports. (Attachment #8)

XIV. Budget and Finance

Mr. Hyman and Mrs. Walling thanked the PTO for their generous donation. Both principals are excited about the opportunities for various improvements.

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-23**

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

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the month of June 2024. (Attachment #9)
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill lists dated July 1, 2024, through August 22, 2024. (Attachment #10)
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of June 2024 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of June 2024; and

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 June 2024:

RESOLVED THAT, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the month of June 2024 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for June 2024 as submitted and certified (Attachment #11).

4. **BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Mountainside Board of Education grants approval for the Superintendent to make application for and accept subsequent receipt of the IDEA Consolidated Grants for fiscal year 2025 as follows:

IDEA Preschool	\$8,351
----------------	---------

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
August 20, 2024**

IDEA Basic	\$165,760
------------	-----------

5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the shared services agreement for Class II Officer between the Mountainside Board of Education and the Borough of Mountainside for the 24-25 and 25-26 school year, pending approval of Borough Council. (Attachment #12)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Berkeley Heights Governor Livingston High School General Education Tuition Agreement Contract for the 2024-2025 school year in the amount of \$4,316,718.00. (Attachment #13).
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Berkeley Heights Governor Livingston High School Resource Room Tuition Agreement Contract for the 2024-2025 school year in the amount of \$399,225.00.(Attachment #14).
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the joint transportation agreement between Garwood Public Schools and the Mountainside Board of Education for an out-of-district transportation route for the 2024-2025 school year, in the amount of \$44,000. (Attachment #15)
9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, building use application for Girls on the Run. It is recommended to approve use by this non-profit organization as a Priority 4 use, as indicated in board Policy 7510, with all fees being waived. In the event that any custodial or maintenance fees are required, the organization will be charged accordingly.
10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the withdrawal of \$29,969 out of the maintenance reserve account to be used for required maintenance to district HVAC systems.
11. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a parent transportation contract, in the amount of \$15,000, pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A: 39.1 et seq. and N.J.A.C.6A: 27-9.9, between the Mountainside Board of Education and the parent/legal guardians of **Student #8133889732** for 24-25 Regular School Year.
12. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, acceptance of FY24 Nonpublic School Transportation Aid in the amount of \$40,950.
13. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the acceptance of FY24 Extraordinary Aide in the amount of \$165,324.
14. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the acceptance of a grant for "Additional or Compensatory Special Education and Related Services (ACSERS) for Students with Disabilities who are 21 as of July 1, 2023" in the revised amount of \$197,960 for the 23-24 school year.
15. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the agreement with Golden Arrow Transportation to provide transportation for fall sports, at a rate of \$550.00 per bus. (Attachment #16)

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
August 20, 2024**

16. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with G2 Athletics, LLC for an 8 session after school program for Beechwood students, to be held Sept. 12th - Dec. 5th, 2024, at a cost of \$440 as outlined under Tier 6 usage fees in district Policy 7510.
17. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with The Original Hoopers, LLC for use of Deerfield facilities, at a total cost of \$825, per Tier 6 usage fees in district Policy 7510.
18. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2024-2025 fee amounts for student activities in accordance with Board Policy 2436, Activity Participation Fee Program:

Activity	Fee
Athletics	\$205 per student*
Clubs/Student Activities	\$50 per student/per activity**

- * If a child plays two or more sports, the cost is \$325 for the year.
- ** If a child participates in three or more clubs/activities, the cost is \$125 for the year.
- * If two or more children in a family play a sport, the cost is \$175 per sport.
- * If two or more children in a family play two or more sports, the cost is \$275 for each child for the year.

If a child is approved for Free/Reduced School Meals, the above fees will be waived.

19. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of DC Fagan Psychological Services as an Independent Contractor/Physician/Agency to conduct Neuropsychological Evaluations and Consultation at a rate of \$3,500-\$4,500 per evaluation, as needed for the 24/25 school year.
20. 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 #17). 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.
21. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, special education placements and services as per (Attachment #18).
22. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept a donation from the PTO, in the amount of \$45,000, to be used towards the addition of basketball hoops and new bleachers at Deerfield, a sound system for the Deerfield APR, new recess equipment and landscape/building beautification at both schools, and other additions at Beechwood.

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
August 20, 2024**

23. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a professional service contract to Sarah's Spanish School for virtual spanish hybrid program - asynchronous plus 3 live classes per week at a cost of \$34,680 per semester.

XV. Personnel

Mrs. Walling and the Board welcomed Mr. Mikula as our new music teacher, who was present.

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Personnel #1-15**

Moved: Mr. Goodwin Seconded: Mrs. Schiano

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

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 #19):

Name	Loc.	Position	Salary/Step	Start	End
Maryann Brown	BW	Secretary to the Principal	\$63,474 Step 8 (prorated)	*9/1/24	6/30/25
<i>*To assist with the transition, Ms. Brown will work up to 4 days in August at a per diem rate.</i>					
Zachary Lipshitz	DF	Health/PE Teacher	\$63,951 MA Step 7 (prorated)	9/16/24 <i>or sooner</i>	6/30/25
Nicole Mortola	DF	4th Grade Teacher	\$60,837 BA Step 7 (prorated)	10/7/24 <i>or sooner</i>	6/30/25
James Mikula	BW/DF	Music Teacher	\$59,556 BA Step 6 (prorated)	10/1/24 <i>or sooner</i>	6/30/25
Lauren Klein	DF	ABA Paraprofessional	\$27.34/hr. Step 1 + RBT salary adjustment upon completion of certification	9/1/24	6/30/25
Ashan Johnson	DF	Custodian	\$46,388 Step 2 -Maint.	8/1/24	6/30/25
Maria Carrillo	BW	Paraprofessional	\$27.34/hr. Step 1	9/1/24	6/30/25
Aneta Ferriere	BW	Lunch aide	\$15.25/hr.	9/1/24	6/30/25

2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following resignations (Attachment #20):

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
August 20, 2024**

Name	Position	Final Date of Employment
Laura Chiappetta	Spanish Teacher	Effective 8/26/24
Tom Wise	Music/Band Teacher	Effective 8/31/24
Deb Conley	4th Grade Teacher	Effective 10/4/24

3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to rescind **Lauren Klein** and **Christine Kiesewetter** as lunch aides, as previously approved on 6/18/24.
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2024-2025 **Substitute Teacher/Support Staff List** (Attachment #21)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 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. (Attachment #22)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **Paola Conte** to assist with office duties, as needed, at a rate of \$15.25/hour during the 2024/2025 school year.
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **Natalie Crisafulli**, to develop and present new teacher training on Big Ideas Mathematics to be presented on August 29, 2024. Mrs. Crisafulli will be compensated 3 hours for preparation and presentation at a rate of \$56.73/hour as per MEA contract.
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **Michelle Cruz**, to develop and present new teacher training on ELA instructional programs to be presented on August 29, 2024. Mrs. Cruz will be compensated 3 hours for preparation and presentation at a rate of \$56.73/hour as per MEA contract.
9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Child Study Team Staffing for meetings, evaluations, and case management, effective June 21, 2024 through August 31, 2024.

Staff Member	Position	Hours	Rate
Jessica Goldstein	LDT-C	Additional 25 hours (50 total)	\$44/hr.

10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **Ramona Kuznedelov and Annabella Ross**, to to be paid up to 4 hours at a rate of \$44/hour, for their participation in an Anti-Bullying Specialist planning meeting on August 13, 2024.
11. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the notification to take classes from **Sue Goracy**, Grade 2 Teacher, for classes taken at Idaho State University, for the 2024 Summer- Fall Sessions for twelve (12) graduate credits in the amount of \$660. (Attachment #23)

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
August 20, 2024**

12. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the notification to take 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 #24)
13. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **Angela Cuccio**, to complete up to 25 guided observation hours with Mrs. Morrelli as part of her Speech Language Pathology graduate program at Kean University. (Attachment #25)
14. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of the following new hires for the 2024-2025 school year:

Name	Loc.	Position	Salary/Step	Start	End
Joanne DiPaola	DF	Paraprofessional (up to 7 hrs./wk)	\$27.34/hr. Step 1	9/1/24	6/30/25

15. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following resignations (Attachment #26):

Name	Position	Final Date of Employment
Erin Cassata	Custodian	Effective 9/18/24

XVI. Policy

Mr. Hyman asked some questions and Mrs. Walling responded.

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Policy #1-3**

Moved: Mr. Venes

Seconded: Mrs. Schiano

RC: Dillon -yes Goodwin - yes Guidicipietro - yes Hyman - yes
Pupo - absent Schiano - yes Venes - yes

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

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

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
August 20, 2024**

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

P 3211	Code of Ethics	Revised/Recommended
P 5570	Sportsmanship	Revised/Recommended
P 5842	Equal Access of Student Organizations	Revised/Recommended

3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to abolish the following policies/regulations:

P 0164.6	Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency
----------	--

XVII. Old Business - none

XVIII. New Business - none

XIX. Committee Reports - Mrs. Schiano discussed the Curriculum Committee meeting from earlier this evening and discussed the Student Handbooks, the Spanish program, ML programs, and other state mandates.

XX. Public Participation - none

XXI. 2nd Executive Session

Moved: Mr. Hyman Seconded: Mr. Goodwin

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

- Student Matters
- Legal 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.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board adjourns to executive session at 8:05 p.m. to discuss the above mentioned matter to the exclusion of all others. Matters discussed may or

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
August 20, 2024**

may not be made public this evening. If an action results, it will be taken following reentry into regular session.

XXII. Close Executive Session and Reconvene Public Session

The public meeting reconvened at 10:35 p.m

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

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board reverses the determination with respect Deerfield School Case #7 and finds HIB, regarding the HIB Investigation reported by the Superintendent at the Board's June 18, 2024 meeting.

XXIII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Hyman at 10:39 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Schiano to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 6 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Sullivan
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary