

Mountain View School District
“A Community’s Commitment to Excellence”
Board of Education Public Meeting
Monday, May 5, 2025
MINUTES

1.1 Call to Order

The regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Education on May 5, 2025 was held in the James W. Zick Board Room and was called to order at 8:09 PM by Mr. Jason Richmond, President.

1.2 Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

1.3 Roll Call – Board Members Present:

Mr. Jason Richmond, President; Mr. Kenneth Decker, First Vice President; Mr. Michael Barhite, Second Vice President; Mr. Michael Molenko; Mr. Tracy Flynn; Ms. Louise Cator, Mr. Michael Talabiska; Mr. Danny Very.

Absent: Mr. Derek O’Dell.

Administration Present:

Dr. Mike Elia, Superintendent; Mr. Thomas Witiak, Business Manager; Mrs. Erica Loftus, Special Services Director; Mr. Patrick McGarry, Elementary School Principal; Dr. Mark Lemoncelli, High School Principal; Attorney Joseph Gaughan, Solicitor.

Absent: Vacant, Director of Curriculum.

1.4. Pride in Mountain View:

SGA Representative – Brooklyn Anderson

- Brooklyn presented the MVSGA Liaison Report.

Proposed Final Budget – Mr. Thomas Witiak

- Mr. Witiak presented the Proposed Final Budget.

1.5. Approve the Board Minutes

The motion is made by Mr. Talabiska, second by Ms. Cator, to approve the minutes dated April 22, 2025, as presented.

Motion 214 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

1.6. Treasurer’s Report – Michael Talabiska, Treasurer

- Mr. Talabiska presented the Treasurer’s Report.

1.7. First Hearing of Visitors

You may speak about anything on the agenda. Please identify yourself by name and address all comments to the Board as a whole. You will be allowed two (2) minutes for your comments; five (5) minutes if prior written notification was made. Comments relative to private student matters or personnel issues should be directed to the appropriate school authority outside of this meeting. The presiding officer reserves the right to interrupt or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

- Ted Brewster asked clarifying questions about the agenda.

2. Finance Committee: Michael Barhite, Chairperson

Committee Members: Michael Molenko, Derek O'Dell

2.1. Approve May Bill List

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Very, to approve the list of bills for May 5, 2025 for the General Fund in the amount of \$311,928.50 and the Cafeteria Fund in the amount of \$786.75, totaling \$312,715.25, as presented.

Motion 215 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

2.2. Appoint School Solicitor

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Very, appoint Joseph F. Gaughan, P.C. as school solicitor for the 2025-2026 school year at an annual retainer amount of \$11,000.00 and a rate of \$140.00 per hour for other services according to proposal, as presented.

Motion 216 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

2.3. Approve Substitute Per Diem Rate Sheet

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Very, to approve the Substitute Per Diem Rate Sheet for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented.

Motion 217 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

2.4. Approve Quarterly Reports

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Very, to approve the following quarterly reports dated March 31, 2025 as presented and file for audit:

1. High School Activities Account
2. High School Scholarship Account
3. Elementary School Activities Account

Motion 218 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

2.5. Approve Service Agreement with Marywood University

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Very, to approve a Services Agreement between the Mountain View School District and Marywood University, as presented.

Motion 219 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

2.6. Appoint Bank of Record

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Very, to appoint Peoples Security Bank & Trust as bank of record for 2025-2026.

Motion 220 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

2.7. Appoint Collector of Delinquent Taxes

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Very, to appoint G. H. Harris Associates, Inc., Dallas, PA as delinquent per capita and delinquent occupational tax collector for the 2025-2026 school year.

Motion 221 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

2.8. Approve 2025-2026 Proposed Final Budget

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Very, to approve the 2025 – 2026 Proposed Final Budget in the amount of \$23,718,056.60.

Motion 222 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

2.9. Appoint Property Insurance Company

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Very, to appoint DGK Insurance as property, auto, worker's compensation, etc. insurer for the 2025-2026 school year.

Motion 223 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

2.10. Approve Tax Bill Printer

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Very, to approve Government Software Services (GSS) for 2025 real estate tax, per capita tax, and occupation tax bill printing, as presented.

Motion 224 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

3. Personnel Committee: Michael Molenko, Chairperson

Committee Members: Louise Cator, Derek O'Dell

3.1. Approve Summer IT Help

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Ms. Cator, to approve summer IT help (Restricted to 29.5 hours per week) at a rate of \$13.00 an hour beginning June 16, 2025 and ending August 15, 2025.

Motion 225 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

3.2. Approve Summer IT Employee

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Ms. Cator, to approve Andrew Graham as summer IT help at a rate of \$13.00 an hour beginning June 16, 2025 and ending August 15, 2025.

Motion 226 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

3.4. Approve Substitute

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Ms. Cator, to approve the following substitutes:

Kala Mason, Forest City PA, to the Teacher Substitute List

Motion 227 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

3.5. Approve ESY

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Ms. Cator, to approve ESY for summer 2025 at the following time and dates: 8:15 AM to 12:15 PM for staff and is on the following dates: June 30, July 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, and 24.

Motion 228 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

3.6. Approve ESY Staff

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Ms. Cator, to approve ESY Staff for summer 2025:

Teachers: Sarah Evans, Stacy Decker, Rebecca Giordano
Paraprofessionals: Joy Bognatz, Colleen Heller, Dawn Neri, and Brittany Latwinski

Substitute: Caitlin Williams (paraprofessional & teacher)
Related Services: Karen Zaums and Heather Larkin

Motion 229 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

3.7. Approve School Police Officers

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Ms. Cator, to designate the following individual(s) to act as school police officer(s) for the District: (1) Lee Rowan and (2) Mark Mulvey. This designation is contingent upon court approval as set forth in Article XIII-C of the Public School Code of 1949, 24 P.S. § 13-1302-C *et al*, and the appointment of said individual(s) by a judge of the Susquehanna County Court of Common Pleas. The Board further desires that said individual(s) possess all powers currently available, and which may subsequently become available, under Article XIII-C of Public School Code of 1949, 24 P.S. § 13-1302-C *et seq*. The Board hereby directs Administration and counsel to take all actions necessary and proper to apply for this appointment, as required by Article XIII-C of the Public School Code of 1949, 24 P.S. § 13-1302-C *et al*.

Motion 230 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

3.8. Approve Termination

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Ms. Cator, to approve the termination of at-will employee Lena Clark from her District Office Administrative Assistant Position for reasons of economy, effective May 16, 2025.

Motion 231 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

3.9. Approve Termination

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Ms. Cator, to approve the termination of Samantha Owens from her Assistant Softball Coach position, effective April 29, 2025.

Motion 232 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

3.10. Approve Coaching Position

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Ms. Cator, to approve the following supplemental salary coaching position:

A. Cheerleading Assistant Coach, Rebecca Gulley, \$1,932.00.

Motion 233 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

3.11. Authorize Posting and Advertising

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Ms. Cator, to authorize posting and advertising for the following coaching position:

A. Softball Assistant Coach

Motion 234 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

4. Policy Committee: Michael Talabiska Chairperson

Committee Members: Danny Very, Tracy Flynn

5. Education Committee: Michael Talabiska, Chairperson

Committee Members: Tracy Flynn, Louise Cator

5.1. Approve Field Trip Request

The motion is made by Mr. Talabiska, second by Ms. Cator, to approve the following field trip requests:

Alison Martino & 1 staff TBD, 30 students, April 28, 2025, Kings College & Wilkes University (Travel: \$342.25; Total: \$342.25).

Glen Mackey, 5 students, May 14, 2025, What's so Cool About Manufacturing State Awards, Harrisburg, PA (Substitute: \$115.00; Total: \$115.00).

Motion 235 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

5.2. Approve Religious Instruction 2025-2026

The motion is made by Mr. Talabiska, second by Ms. Cator, to approve the Religious Instruction Program between the Mountain View School District and the Child Evangelism Fellowship of Susquehanna County for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented.

Motion 236 Carried: 7 Yes (Mr. Barhite, Mr. Decker, Mr. Talabiska, Ms. Cator, Mr. Molenko, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Richmond), 1 No (Mr. Very), 1 Absent (Mr. O'Dell)

5.3. Approve Student Settlement

The motion is made by Mr. Talabiska, second by Ms. Cator, to approve a settlement agreement between the Mountain View School District and student #24029.

Motion 237 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

6. **Building and Site Committee: Danny Very, Chairperson**

Committee Members: Michael Barhite, Kenneth Decker

Mr. Taylor's Report

- Mr. Taylor mentioned that new signage was placed around campus.

7. **Transportation Committee: Kenny Decker, Chairperson**

Committee Members: Michael Barhite, Danny Very

8. **Labor Relations Committee: Jason Richmond, Chairperson**

MVEA Committee Members: Michael Talabiska, Danny Very, Kenneth Decker

MVESPA Committee Members: Derek O'Dell, Michael Talabiska, Danny Very

9. **Administration**

9.1. Principals' Comments

Elementary Principal - Mr. Patrick McGarry

- Mr. McGarry stated that PSSA testing was completed on Chromebooks. Field Trips are underway.

High School Principal - Dr. Mark Lemoncelli

- Dr. Lemoncelli said that Prom was a success. Arts Alive is this week. PSSAs are complete.

9.2. Director of Special Services - Mrs. Erica Loftus

- Mrs. Loftus is excited that ESY is staffed. Life Skills Prom is soon. Special Olympics is coming up.

9.3. Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Federal Programs - VACANT

9.4. Business Manager – Mr. Thomas Witiak

- No comment.

9.5. Superintendent - Dr. Michael Elia

- Dr. Elia said he continues to balance the budget.

10. **Closing**

10.1. New Business from Board Members

- None.

10.2. Second Hearing of Visitors

You may address any topic. Please identify yourself by name and address all comments to the Board as a whole. You will be allowed two (2) minutes for your comments; five

(5) minutes if prior written notification was made. Comments relative to private student matters or personnel issues should be directed to the appropriate school authority outside of this meeting. The presiding officer reserves the right to interrupt or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

- Heather Simons asked about volunteer clearances.

10.3. Executive Session – Announcement of executive sessions held and/or scheduled.

HELD:

- Monday, May 5, 2025 - 6:00pm to 8:00 for Personnel and interviews.

SCHEDULED:

- Monday, June 9, 2025 before the public meeting

11. Adjourn

The motion was made by Mr. Talabiska, second by Mr. Very, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Witiak