



Mountain Lakes School District
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www.mlschools.org

MOUNTAIN LAKES BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

July 24, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 9:30pm by Mrs. Barkauskas

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board President, Mrs. Barkauskas will lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

Board Member	Present	Absent
Mr. Chiang, Jr.	X	
Dr. Don	X	
Mrs. Forman	X	
Dr. Hirschfeld		X
Mr. Johnson	X	
Mrs. Kulkarni	X	
Dr. Silva McIntyre	X	
Mrs. Parker (<i>Vice President</i>)	X (arrived at 9:34pm)	
Dr. Sheth		X
Mrs. Barkauskas (<i>President</i>)	X	

Also present: Dr. Brad Siegel, Dr. James Riley

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT - None

SUPERINTENDENT / ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE - None

SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE - None

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS - None

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. PERSONNEL

- Dr. Siegel reviewed:
 - Personnel agenda resolutions and handy carry items

Motion by Mr. Chiang and seconded by Mr. Johnson for motions #1 – 2, HC#1, HC#2

1. Appointments / Amendments/ Resignations / Rescission / Retirements / RIF's

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following appointments, amendments, resignations, rescissions, retirements and RIFs, for all regular employees with base pay, be approved, as recommended by the Superintendent:*

	Name	Action	UPC	Position	Location	FTE	Degree/ Step	Rate of Pay	Start Date	Term Date
DISTRICT										
1.	Stern, Joseph	Appointment	TCH-HS-MATH-09	Teacher	MLHS	1.0	MA+60/ Step 15	\$112,873	8/25/25 (pending certification)	6/30/26

District Roll Call 8-0-0

1. (HC) Appointments / Amendments/ Resignations / Rescission / Retirements / RIF's

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following appointments, amendments, resignations, rescissions, retirements and RIFs, for all regular employees with base pay, be approved, as recommended by the Superintendent:*

	Name	Action	UPC	Position	Location	FTE	Degree/ Step	Rate of Pay	Start Date	Term Date
DISTRICT										
1.	Paccioretti, Kate	Appointment	LTS-HS-TCH-01	Teacher – LTR (5005)	MLHS	1.0	BA/ Step 2	\$65,805	8/25/25	6/30/26

District Roll Call 8-0-0

2. Tuition Reimbursement *1*

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following course(s) for tuition reimbursement when the course has been completed and the transcripts received by the Superintendent’s office, as recommended by the Superintendent:

	Name	Location	College/University	Course Title / #	Credits
DISTRICT					
1.	VanderLaan, Brooke	LD	Missouri State University	Counseling: Deaf and Hard of Hearing /SPE 766	3
2.	VanderLaan, Brooke	LD	Missouri State University	Reading: Deaf and Hard of Hearing / SPE 765	3
3.	VanderLaan, Brooke	LD	Missouri State University	Language Development: Deaf and Hard of Hearing I /SPE 757	3
IVY H, BC, WW					
4.	Bogucz, Kelly	BC	Savannah College of Art & Design	Drawing for Illustrators/ILLU 714	5
5.	Ramirez, Justin	BC	American College of Education	Law and Policy/EL5753	3

District Roll Call 8-0-0

2. (HC) Athletics / Extra Services (Schedule B Appointments)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following additional compensation, for all extra earnings under the contract, as recommended by the Superintendent:

	Name	Action	Position	Location	Degree/Step	Rate of Pay	Start Date	Term Date
DISTRICT								
1.	Bledsoe, Phoebe (OOD)	Appointment	Girls’ Basketball – Assistant Coach	MLHS	Step 2	\$6,135	12/1/25	3/8/26

3. (HC) Approval of Employment Adjustment Increment

WHEREAS, on or before May 23, 2025, an employee whose name is on file in the Superintendent’s office was notified that the Superintendent was recommending that his employment and adjustment increments were withheld for the 2025-2026 school year “Employee”); and

WHEREAS, on or about May 23, 2025, the Employee acknowledged that his salary increments are withheld for 2025-2026 school year; and **WHEREAS**, the Board has considered the Superintendent’s recommendation together with the reasons provided to the employee; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the Superintendent’s recommendation to the Board that the employee’s employment and adjustment increments to be withheld for the 2025-2026 school year is amply supported by the reasons provided to the employee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby adopts and affirms the Superintendent’s recommendation to withhold the employee’s employment and adjustment increments for the 2025-2026 school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board’s action to withhold the Employee’s salary increments for the 2025-2026 school year is without prejudice to any other action the Board has taken or will be taking affecting the employee’s future employment in the District; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby requests that the Business Administrator/Board Secretary provide the employee with written notice that his employment and adjustment increments for the 2025-2026 school year are being withheld, together with the reasons therefore, within ten (10) days of the date of this Resolution.

District Roll Call 8-0-0

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 9:42am was made by Mrs. Forman and seconded by Dr. Silva McIntyre.

District Roll Call 8-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. James Riley

School Business Administrator / Board Secretary

Δ Indicates matters not relating to MLHS, the Boonton Township district Representative of the Board of Education will refrain from voting on such matters, pursuant to Board Policy 0141.2.

** Indicates a motion/resolution will have supporting documentation*

2025-2026 Board Goals

Goal Statement	Goal Area
1. Expand students’ active learning in PreK-12 classrooms through effective use of small group instruction, questioning strategies, and problem-solving activities.	Ensuring success of all students Ensuring success of all staff Supporting the whole child
2. Identify, develop, and implement plans to enrich STEM learning in all four schools by enhancing facilities, resources, curricula, and experiences outside of the classroom aligned to a clearly defined district vision.	Ensuring success of all students Ensuring success of all staff Finance / infrastructure / technology Strong family / school /community partnerships
3. Increase horizontal and vertical articulation practices and outcomes among staff members in the Mountain Lakes School District and between staff members of the district and Rockaway Valley School through structured professional collaboration opportunities.	Ensuring success of all students Ensuring success of all staff Strong family / school /community partnerships
4. Review and analyze programs, models, and research related to “social-emotional learning” for the classroom and make a formal recommendation to the Board of Education for the 2026-27 school year.	Ensuring success of all students Ensuring success of all staff Supporting the whole child Strong family / school /community partnerships

2024-2025 Board Goals

Board Goal	Committee Support
1. Support the development and improvement of district personnel systems to retain high quality staff members and promote fair, consistent, and effective supervision across the district.	Personnel
2. Endeavor to reach a long-term agreement with Boonton Township School District extending the send-receive relationship for Rockaway Valley School students to attend Mountain Lakes High School.	Full Board, Negotiations
3. Develop a positive and collaborative relationship between the Board of Education and new superintendent to ensure a broad vision and governance plan for the district result in clear, appropriate, and effective decisions.	Full Board
4. Enhance communication and relationships between the Board of Education and Mountain Lakes staff by expanding BOE member attendance at key school programs and events and increasing staff and school highlights at regular BOE meetings.	Full Board
5. Secure and successfully transition a full time Business Administrator/Board Secretary with essential skills, dispositions, and knowledge to meet the diverse fiscal and operational needs of the district.	Finance, Facilities
6. Promote a safe and positive learning environment for all students by supporting the administration and staff with resources related to upgrades in school security and various wellness initiatives.	Facilities, Security

CURRICULUM VITAE

Joseph J. Stern



Academic Positions

2024–2025	Bard High School Early College – Manhattan, New York Role: Mathematics Teacher
2002–2009 & 2013–2024	Stuyvesant High School, New York Role: Mathematics Teacher
SUMMERS 2003–2008	Macaulay Honors College, City University of New York Role: Instructor, Summer Scholars Academy in Mathematics and Science
2001–2002 & SUMMER 2000	Queens College, City University of New York Role: Adjunct Instructor, Mathematics Department

University Education

2009–2012	Columbia University, New York Doctoral Candidate, Department of Mathematics
2005–2007	Queens College, City University of New York Master of Arts with Distinction in Pure Mathematics
1999–2000	Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, London One-Year Course in Mathematics, supported by the British Marshall Scholarship
1994–1999	Queens College, City University of New York Bachelor of Arts, <i>summa cum laude</i> , Mathematics and Philosophy

Fellowships and Awards

2014	MfA Master Teacher Fellowship (2014–2018) Math for America — Simons Foundation
2011	<i>Finalist</i> , Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate Student Columbia University, Office of the Provost
2009	Faculty Fellowship in the Department of Mathematics Columbia University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
2008 & 2004	Edyth May Sliffe Award for Distinguished High School Mathematics Teaching Mathematical Association of America
2005	MfA Master Teacher Fellowship (2005–2009) Math for America — Simons Foundation
1999–2000	British Marshall Scholarship Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain
1999	<i>Valedictorian</i> , Baccalaureate Convocation, Queens College CUNY Honors College
1999	Phi Beta Kappa Award for Outstanding Scholarship, Sigma Chapter of New York
1999	Eva and Joseph Paulson Memorial Award for Outstanding Mathematics Graduate Queens College CUNY, New York

Research Publications and Preprints

1. *Inversion numbers of graphs* (with M. Conlon, M. Falidas, M. Forde, J. Kennedy, and S. McIlwaine), *Graph Theory Notes of N.Y.*, **37** (1999), p. 42-48.
2. *Euler's triangle determination problem*, *Forum Geom.*, **7** (2007), p. 1-9.
3. *Equimodular polynomials and the tritangency theorems of Euler, Feuerbach, and Guinand* (with A. Ryba), *American Mathematical Monthly*, **118** (2011), p. 217-228.
4. *Equimodular polynomials and their cycloidal simplices* (with A. Ryba), in preparation.

[Selected articles and preprints may be downloaded from <http://josephstern.info>.]

Other Written Work

1. *Rectangular Coordinates and the Consistency of Euclidean Geometry: A Supplemental Textbook*
Stuyvesant High School Honors Program in Mathematics

Professional Experience

- 2000—PRESENT *Courses and Seminars*
1. Multivariable Calculus: Queens College CUNY & Stuyvesant High School
 2. Differential Equations: Stuyvesant High School
 3. Differential Geometry of Surfaces: Stuyvesant High School Faculty Seminar
 4. Linear Algebra: Queens College CUNY
 5. Field Theory and Constructibility: Macaulay Honors College Summer Academy
 6. Actuarial Mathematics (Probability and Statistics): Stuyvesant High School
 7. Modern Triangle Geometry: Macaulay Honors College Summer Academy
 8. Calculus II: Barnard College at Columbia University
- [Selected course materials may be downloaded from <http://www.josephstern.info>.]
- 2009—2010 *Invited Speaker*
Mathematics Research Course, Stuyvesant High School (P. Brooks, Coordinator)
- Talks Given:
1. *The Jordan Normal Form of a Linear Transformation*
 2. *The Classification Theorem for Compact Surfaces*
 3. *Calculus with Complex-Valued Functions of a Complex Variable*
 4. *Quine Minimization* [available via <http://josephstern.info>]
- 2007—2008 *Co-Founder & Invited Speaker*
Stuyvesant High School Faculty Colloquium in Mathematics and Computer Science
- Talks Given:
1. *A Proof of the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra Suitable for Honors Precalculus*
 2. *A New Derivation of the Geometric Loci of Euler and Guinand*
- 2007—2008 *Faculty Editor*
MATH SURVEY — Stuyvesant High School Journal of Mathematics
[Volume **82** (2008) available via <http://www.josephstern.info>]
- 2002—2008 *Assistant Coach*
New York City Math Team
2008 Winner of the American Regions Mathematics League (ARML) Competition
- 2003—2005 *Curriculum Designer*
Freshman Year Honors Geometry, Stuyvesant High School
- **Fall**: Foundations of Geometry — Neutral, Euclidean, and Hyperbolic
 - **Spring**: Techniques of Euclidean Geometry in Dimensions 2 and 3

KATE PACCIORETTI

1

SECONDARY ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER

CONTACT

EDUCATION

Montclair State University
Montclair, NJ
Bachelor's Degree - English, Business
Alpha Lambda Delta's Honor Society Member
3.6 GPA in English program

University of Westminster
London, UK
Study Abroad - Shakespeare Studies

PRIOR CAREER

Phillips Pet Food & Supplies
Category/Brand Manager
April 2019 – February 2023

Family Dollar
Associate Category Merchant
February 2018 – March 2019

Party City
Senior Category/Program Manager
October 2012 – January 2018

PRAXIS TESTS

5038 English Language Arts: Content Knowledge
187/200 (average range 170-185)

5047 Middle School Language Arts –
179/200 (average range 151-170)

5713 Core Skills for Educators: Reading
198/200 (average range 158-184)

5723 Core Skills for Educators: Writing
184/200 (average range 156-170)

5733 Core Skills for Educators: Math
196/200 (average range 152-182)

5221 Speech Communication: Content Knowledge
169/200 (average range 149-168)

5224 Journalism
184/200 (average range 172-187)

5358 Gifted Education
166/200 (average range 159-170)

WORK EXPERIENCE

English Language Arts Teacher, Core Skills, 6th Grade - Long Term Substitute

Jefferson Township Middle School

February 2025 - Present

- Collaborated with 6th grade ELA teachers to co-design a multi-classroom research project on Civil Liberties, culminating in a structured 4 paragraph paper and follow-up creative assessments
- Designed and implemented a rotating, student-choice curriculum targeting skill gaps in reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary, and public speaking for grades 6-8, using differentiated worksheets created from EdCite, original content, and AI tools to engage diverse learners in pull-out sessions
- Addressed ongoing interpersonal conflicts through strategic seating changes, structured routines, and consistent, personalized behavior coaching rooted in restorative practices to foster a respectful and supportive classroom environment
- Initiated and facilitated a weekly mini-PLC with fellow Core Skills and ELA teachers to align interventions, share resources, and collaborate on student support strategies

English Language Arts Teacher, 7th Grade - Long Term Substitute

Jefferson Township Middle School

September 2024 - February 2025

- SGO based on thesis statement development: target goal 25% growth, achieved 306% growth
- Developed and delivered engaging lessons on various novels, narrative writing, and essay writing, emphasizing critical thinking and structured analysis
- Designed and implemented strategies to analyze student essays for originality and AI usage, ensuring academic integrity while providing constructive feedback
- Adapted teaching methods to meet diverse learning needs, fostering a supportive and inclusive classroom environment
- Collaborated with colleagues to align curriculum and assessments, contributing to a cohesive English Language Arts program

Media Specialist, High School - Long Term Substitute

Jefferson Township High School

April 2024 - June 2024

- Assist in library management by keeping accurate records, re-organizing the class book room, and providing printing and laminating support to faculty
- Promoting a positive and safe atmosphere for students through conflict management, relationship building, and academic support

English Language Arts Teacher, 10th Grade - Long Term Substitute

Jefferson Township High School

February 2024

- Developed and implemented honors-level lesson plans about *The Scarlet Letter*, diving into Hawthorne's background, relevant literary movements, and fostering a deep understanding of the material among students
- Collaborated effectively with experienced co-teachers in regular classes, leveraging their expertise while actively contributing to the teaching process
- Established strong rapport with students across diverse classes, creating a positive learning environment conducive to academic growth and personal connection, as evidenced by enthusiastic feedback from students

Instructional Substitute, Middle and High School

Jefferson Township Public Schools

December 2023 - March 2024

- Aided in distributing lesson plans in the absence of the teacher, helping students with questions when possible, and managed student behavior and productivity