

Mountain View School District
“A Community’s Commitment to Excellence”
Board of Education Public Meeting
Monday, August 18, 2025
MINUTES

1.1 Call to Order

The regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Education on August 18, 2025 was held in the James W. Zick Board Room and was called to order at 7:12 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; Ms. Louise Cator, Mr. Michael Talabiska; Mr. Derek O’Dell.

Absent: Mr. Tracy Flynn; Vacant, Lathrop Seat.

Administration Present:

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

Absent: None

1.4. Pride in Mountain View:

- Acceptance of District Improvement Grant – Representative Fritz & Senator Baker
 - Dr. Elia discussed the path to obtaining the District Improvement Grant. He thanked Representative Fritz, Senator Baker and GSL.
 - Representative Fritz and Senator Baker mentioned the value of school districts in the community and the strength of rural school districts.
- Administrative Goals Presentation for 2025-2026
 - Dr. Elia presented the 2025-2026 Administrative Goals.
 - Mr. McGarry presented the 2025-2026 Elementary School Goals.
 - Dr. Lemoncelli presented the 2025-2026 High School Goals.
 - Mrs. Loftus presented the 2025-2026 Special Services Goals.
 - Dr. Frounfelker presented the 2025-2026 District Curriculum Goals.

1.5. Approve the Board Minutes

The motion is made by Mr. Talabiska, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve the minutes dated July 14, 2025, as presented.

Motion 16 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

1.6. Treasurer's Report – Ms. Louise Cator, Treasurer

- Ms. Cator 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 July Bill List

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Talabiska, to approve the list of bills for August 18, 2025 for the General Fund in the amount of \$827,183.29 and the Cafeteria Fund in the amount of \$31,178.20, totaling \$858,361.49, as presented.

Motion 17 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

2.2. Approve Exonerations for Real Estate, Per Capita, and Occupational Taxes

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Talabiska, to approve exonerations for 2025 real estate, 2025 per capita taxes and 2025 occupation taxes as submitted by the Susquehanna County Courthouse and tax collectors, as presented.

Motion 18 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

2.3. Approve Service Agreement with Interim Health Care

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Talabiska, to approve the service agreement between the Mountain View School District and Interim Health Care, as presented.

Motion 19 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

2.4. Approve Service Agreement with Scranton Counseling Center

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Talabiska, to approve the service agreement between the Mountain View School District and Scranton Counseling Center, as presented.

Motion 20 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

2.5. Approve Collaborative Agreement Amendment with Integrative Counseling Services, PC

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Talabiska, to approve the Collaborative Agreement Amendment between the Mountain View School District and Integrative Counseling Services, PC, as presented.

Motion 21 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

2.6. Approve Transfer of Funds

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Talabiska, to authorize transfer of funds from General Fund Bank Account to Athletic Fund Bank Account in the amount of \$6,000.00.

Motion 22 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

2.7. Approve Service Agreement with Trehab

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Talabiska, to approve the service agreement between the Mountain View School District and Trehab, as presented.

Motion 23 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

3. Personnel Committee: Michael Molenko, Chairperson

Committee Members: Louise Cator, Derek O'Dell

3.1. Accept Letter of Resignation

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve the letter of resignation from Amanda Batzel from her Cafeteria Monitor position effective July 29, 2025 as presented.

Motion 24 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

3.2. Authorize Posting and Advertising

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to authorize posting and advertising for a Cafeteria Monitor position with benefits per the MVESPA Agreement.

Motion 25 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

3.3. Accept Letter of Resignation

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve the letter of resignation from Danny Very from his School Board Member position effective July 15, 2025, as presented.

Motion 26 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

3.4. Approve Coaching Position

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve the following supplemental salary coaching positions:

- A. Cross Country Assistant Coach, Melissa Flynn, \$2,790.00
- B. Girls Volleyball Assistant Coach, Stacey Frezzolini, \$3,100.00

Motion 27 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

3.5. Approve Volunteer

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to appoint the following volunteer(s):

- A. Julie Beach, Hop Bottom, Varsity Boys Soccer
- B. Connor Richmond, Kingsley, Boys Varsity & JH Soccer

Motion 28 Carried: 6 Yes (Mr. Barhite, Mr. Decker, Mr. O'Dell, Mr. Talabiska, Ms. Cator, Mr. Molenko), 1 Abstain (Mr. Richmond), 2 Absent (Mr. Flynn, Vacant, Lathrop Seat)

3.6. Approve District Wide Substitute Teacher

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve the following district wide substitute:

Reagan White, Scranton, District Wide Substitute

Motion 29 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

3.7. Approve Job Description

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve the Mountain View School District Job Description for Elementary School Teacher (PK-6), as presented.

Motion 30 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

3.8. Approve Substitute School Nurse

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve the following substitute school nurse:

Hayley Skorupa, Kingsley, School Nurse Substitute, pending paperwork

Motion 31 Carried: 6 Yes (Mr. Barhite, Mr. Decker, Mr. Richmond, Mr. Talabiska, Ms. Cator, Mr. Molenko), 1 Abstain (Mr. O'Dell), 2 Absent (Mr. Flynn, Vacant, Lathrop Seat)

3.9. Approve Supervisor of Maintenance, Buildings, and Grounds

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve Tim Chidester, Nicholson, PA, as Supervisor of Maintenance, Buildings, and Grounds with a salary of \$70,000.00 and benefits per the Act 93 Agreement, pending paperwork.

Motion 32 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

3.10. Approve Letter of Resignation

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve the letter of resignation from Matthew Donnelly from his High School Engineering & Graphic Design position effective August 29, 2025, as presented.

Motion 33 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

3.11. Authorize Posting and Advertising

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to post and advertise for an anticipated Industrial Arts preferred certified teacher position.

Motion 34 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

4. Policy Committee: Michael Talabiska Chairperson

Committee Members: Tracy Flynn

4.1. First Reading of Policies

- 249 – Bullying/Cyberbullying/Sexting
- 805.2 – School Security Personnel

- Mr. Talabiska presented policy 249 – Bullying/Cyberbullying/Sexting and policy 805.2 – School Security Personnel

5. Education Committee: Michael Talabiska, Chairperson

Committee Members: Tracy Flynn, Louise Cator

5.1. Approve Handbooks

The motion is made by Mr. Talabiska, second by Ms. Cator, to approve the following handbooks, as presented:

- A. Elementary Student Handbook
- B. Elementary Faculty Handbook
- C. Elementary Substitute Handbook

Motion 35 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

5.2. 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 #29012.

Motion 36 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

5.3. Approve Sanctioning of JH Girls Soccer Team

The motion is made by Mr. Talabiska, second by Ms. Cator, to approve sanctioning of JH Girls Soccer team as an interscholastic PIAA sport.

Motion 37 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

5.4. Approve Field Trip Requests

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

- A. Sheri Ransom, 2 Students, Tuesdays for 2025-2026 school year, Laura's Hope Rescue, Hop Bottom, PA, (Travel: \$4.90; Total: \$4.90 (each trip)).
- B. Sheri Ransom, 2 Students, Thursdays for 2025-2026 school year, Hallstead Library, Hallstead, PA, (Travel: \$28.00; Total: \$28.00 (each trip)).
- C. Sheri Ransom, 2 Students, Mondays for 2025-2026 school year, Area Aging Agency, Clifford, PA, (Travel: \$14.00; Total: \$14.00 (each trip)).
- D. Sheri Ransom, 5 Students, Wednesdays for 2025-2026 school year, Area Aging Agency, Great Bend, PA, (Travel: \$28.00; Total: \$28.00 (each trip)).

- E. Sheri Ransom, 4 Students, Mondays & Thursdays for 2025-2026 school year, Interfaith, Montrose, PA, (Travel: \$21.00; Total: \$21.00 (each trip)).
- F. Sheri Ransom, 6 Students, Fridays for 2025-2026 school year, Weis, Scott Township, PA, (Travel: \$25.20; Total: \$25.20 (each trip)).
- G. Sheri Ransom, 2 Students, September 5 & 19, 2025, Commonwealth Tech, Johnstown, PA, (no cost to District).

Motion 38 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

6. Building and Site Committee: VACANT, Chairperson

Committee Members: Michael Barhite, Kenneth Decker

7. Transportation Committee: Kenny Decker, Chairperson

Committee Members: Michael Barhite

- 7.1.** The motion is made by Mr. Decker, second by Mr. Talabiska, to approve the letter of resignation from Shelia Petrochko from her car/van contractor position effective August 11, 2025 as presented.

Motion 39 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

7.2. Approve Parent Driver

The motion is made by Mr. Decker, second by Mr. Talabiska, to approve Jessica Lopatofsky, Clifford, as a parent driver at the IRS rate of \$0.70 per mile for the 2025-2026 school year.

Motion 40 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

8. Labor Relations Committee: Jason Richmond, Chairperson

MVEA Committee Members: Michael Talabiska, Kenneth Decker

MVESPA Committee Members: Derek O'Dell, Michael Talabiska

9. Administration

9.1. Principals' Comments

Elementary Principal - Mr. Patrick McGarry

- No comment.

High School Principal - Dr. Mark Lemoncelli

- Dr. Lemoncelli thanked Matt Donnelly for his years of service.

9.2. Director of Special Services - Mrs. Erica Loftus

- No comment.

9.3. Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Federal Programs – Dr. Bridget Frounfelker

- No comment.

9.4. Business Manager – Mr. Thomas Witiak

- Mr. Witiak welcomed Mr. Chidester to Mountain View. He thanked Mrs. Chidester for her assistance with the transition.

9.5. Superintendent - Dr. Michael Elia

- No comment.

10. Closing

10.1. New Business from Board Members

- Mr. Richmond announced that, along with Mr. Talabiska, he attended the Leatherstocking natural-gas-line ribbon cutting ceremony.

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.

- Christine Plonski-Sezer hopes the vocal teacher will be replaced at the elementary school.

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

HELD:

- Monday, August 18, 2025 - 6:00 pm – 7:05 pm for Personnel, Interviews, Litigation

SCHEDULED:

- Monday, September 8, 2025 before the public meeting

11. Adjourn

The motion was made by Mr. Talabiska, second by Mr. O'Dell, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Witiak