

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

**October 14 , 2025**

**MOUNTAINSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

BEECHWOOD SCHOOL - 1497 WOODACRES DRIVE, MOUNTAINSIDE, NJ 07092

DEERFIELD SCHOOL - 302 CENTRAL AVENUE, MOUNTAINSIDE, NJ 07092

Click here for [agenda attachments](#) available to the public, or please contact the Mountainside Board of Education Office at (908) 232-3232 or peruse the 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 6:30 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

At roll call, the following members were present

Mr. Michael Goodwin - arrived at 7:11 p.m.

Dr. Dana Guidici Pietro

Mr. Jordan Hyman

Mrs. Vivian Pupo

Mr. Carmine Venes

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

Mr. Bill Dillon and Mrs. Candice Schiano were absent.

**III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)**

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro

Seconded: Mr. Venes

RC: Dillon - absent

Goodwin - yes

Guidici Pietro - yes

Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes

Schiano - absent

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
- HIB Reports
- Send/Receive contract
- Residency issues
- Feasibility Study

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 6:32 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>Dr. Guidicipietro</u>		
RC: Dillon - absent	Goodwin - yes	Guidicipietro - yes	
Hyman - yes	Pupo - yes	Schiano - absent	Venes - yes

The public meeting reconvened at 7:29 p.m.

**V. Flag Salute**

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

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

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 16, 2025
- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of September 16, 2025

**VII. Correspondence - none**

**VIII. Public Participation - none**

**IX. President's Report - none**

**X. Superintendent's Report** - Mr. Kinney presented the inaugural first recipients of the Trailblazer award to a student from each Beechwood and Deerfield Schools, who represent good character. He continued to report on the HIB School Self-Assessments as required annually. He mentioned the various programs going on this month, including Week of Respect activities this week, sports updates, the DAC, and an upcoming parent/student survey. He met with members of Berkeley Heights with collaborative efforts in curriculum and programming. He then introduced Mrs. Crisafulli, who presented the NJSLA/DLM test scores and related data. Overall, our District exceeds state averages in all areas. Mrs. Crisafulli answered some questions from the Board regarding Thinking Classroom and other areas. There was discussion about how successful we have been, and what the state of NJ is doing to offer districts a path to improvement. Board members felt proud of our schools, and Mrs. Crisafulli noted this rigor and success is part of our Blue Ribbon status. They thanked the teachers and administrators for their excellent work.

**XI. Business Administrator's Report** - Mrs. Sullivan overviewed the audit for the 2024-25 school year and introduced Ms. Mantell from Nisivoccia who presented the audit to the board. She noted

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she will be retiring at the end of the year. Her colleague, Brian, will be taking over and joined her to present details regarding our reserves accounts. Mrs. Sullivan noted there are significant health care cost increases.

**XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report - none**

**XIII. Administration**

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Administration #1-6**

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

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2024-2025 New Jersey Department of Education School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act for Beechwood and Deerfield Schools. (Attachment #2)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2025-2026 Nursing Services Plan. (Attachment #3)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the annual Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and M-1. (Attachment #4)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the revised job description as attached. (Attachment #5)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools September 2025 safety and security drill reports.
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Deerfield School Bus Evacuation Drill. (Attachment #6)

**XIV. Budget and Finance**

*Mr. Hyman commented on the wrestling agreement with Berkeley Heights and the feasibility study.  
Dr. Guidici Pietro thanked the PTO for their generous donation.*

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-10**

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

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the month of September 2025. (Attachment #7)

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2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated September 18, 2025, through October 15, 2025. (Attachment #8)

3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of September 2025, and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of September 2025 ; 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 September 2025:

**RESOLVED THAT**, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the month of September 2025 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for September 2025 as submitted and certified (Attachment #9).

4. Move to approve an agreement for Joint Transportation Services between Morris-Union Jointure Commission and the Mountainside Board of Education for Transportation for the 2025 extended school year. (Attachment #10)

5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve non-resident annual tuition rates as follows:

Grade Level/Program	2024-2025 School Year	2025-2026 School Year
Preschool - Kindergarten	\$13,484	\$15,191
Grades 1-5	\$15,809	\$15,824
Grades 6-8	\$16,728	\$15,991
Learning Language Disabled	\$28,773	\$39,723

6. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Mountainside Board of Education, accepts the FY 2024-2025 audit, and approves the submission of the A.C.F.R. (Annual Comprehensive Financial Report) as presented by the firm Nisivoccia.

7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the cooperative agreement between the Mountainside Board of Education and Berkeley Heights for a middle school wrestling program. (Attachment #11)

8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a contract with Bryant, Gemza, Keenoy and Kozlik LLP, to conduct a send/receive feasibility study, in the amount of \$18,000.

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9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept a donation from Mountainside PTO, in the amount of \$30,000, to be used as follows:
  - Beechwood - \$15,000 - Chromebooks/Cart, Art Cabinet, Legos
  - Deerfield - \$15,000 - Landscaping by APR Room, Art Tables
  
10. 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.

**XV. Personnel**

*Mr. Hyman thanked Ms. Castro for her work for the District.*

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Personnel #1-6**

Moved: Mr. Hyman      Seconded: Mr. Goodwin

RC:      Dillon - absent              Goodwin - yes              Guidici Pietro - yes  
             Hyman - yes                      Pupo - yes                Schiano - absent              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 resignation of **Cynthia Vasquez**, Spanish Teacher, effective immediately. (Attachment #13)
  
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of the following new hires for the 2025-2026 school year (Attachment #14):

Name	Loc.	Position	Salary/Step	Start	End
<b>Tamara Nopo-Munoz</b>	DF	Paraprofessional	\$28.08/hour Step 1	Approx. 10/20/25	6/30/26
<b>Franceline Stedile</b>	BW	Lunch aide	\$16/hour	TBD	6/30/26
<b>Anna Polichronis</b>	BW	Lunch aide	\$16/hour	TBD	6/30/26

3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff for 2025-2026 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

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<b>Eric Stoddard</b>	Boys' Co-Coach Basketball	\$3,189 (1-2 yr. rate)
<b>Madison Phillips</b>	Boys' Co-Coach Basketball <i>*this is revised from previous approval as asst. coach</i>	\$3,644 (3+ yr rate)
<b>Shannon Keegan</b>	Chess Club <i>(extra section added due to high enrollment)</i>	\$36.00/session <i>NTE 30 sessions</i>

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of the following to the 2025-2026 Substitute Teacher List, pending paperwork and successful criminal background check. (Attachment #15)

<b>Substitute's Name</b>	<b>Certification</b>	<b>Rate</b>
<b>Ava Messler</b>	Sub Cert. (pending)	\$115/day
<b>Kylie Donofrio</b>	Sub Cert (pending)	\$115/day
<b>Lukas Antico</b>	Substitute Custodian	\$19.12/hour

5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a salary adjustment for **Kelli Castro**, to reflect increased responsibilities for the 2025-2026 school year. (Attachment #16)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **Ian Stambaugh**, a Governor Livingston High School Student, to volunteer as a mentor for the 2025-2026 school year for Robotics Club.

**XVI. Curriculum**

The following motion was approved by roll call vote: **Curriculum #1**

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

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, field trips as detailed to the Board of Education.

**XVII. Policy**

The following motion was approved by roll call vote: **Policy #1**

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

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

Bylaw 0174	Legal Services	Revised/Mandated
Bylaw 0177	Professional Services	Revised/Mandated
P & R 1570	Internal Controls	Revised/Mandated
P 2422	Statutory Curricular Requirements	Revised/Mandated
P 5339.01	Student Sun Protection	New/Mandated
P & R 5513	Care of School Property	Revised

**XVIII. Old Business - none**

**XIX. New Business - none**

**XX. Committee Reports - Mr. Venes went to a county meeting that discussed AI. Mr. Hyman noted the send/receive committee will meet in November.**

**XXI. Public Participation - none**

**XXII. Adjournment- Resolution (Attachment #1)**

A motion was made by Dr. Guidici Pietro at 8:36 p.m., seconded by Mr. Venes to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 5 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Sullivan  
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary