

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
November 11 , 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. Bill Dillon - arrived at 7:17 p.m.  
Mr. Jordan Hyman  
Mrs. Vivian Pupo  
Mrs. Candice Schiano  
Mr. Carmine Venes

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

Mr. Michael Goodwin and Dr. Dana Guidiciopietro were absent.

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

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

- Legal/Personnel matters
- HIB Reports
- Send/Receive contract
- Residency issues
- Feasibility Study

The disclosure of which could constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy; now

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**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 6:33 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: Mr Hyman                      Seconded: Mrs. Schiano  
RC:     Dillon - yes                      Goodwin - absent                      Guidici Pietro - absent  
           Hyman - yes                         Pupo - yes                              Schiano - yes                         Venes - yes

The public meeting reconvened at 7:32 p.m.

**V. Flag Salute**

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

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

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- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of October 14, 2025

**VII. Correspondence - none**

**VIII. Public Participation - none**

**IX. President’s Report - Mrs. Pupo congratulated the newly elected and re-elected Board members. She also thanked veterans for their service on this Veteran's Day.**

**X. Superintendent’s Report - Mr. Kinney introduced the Deerfield Student Council. Several student members presented the impressive work, initiatives, and fundraising efforts Mr. Young and the Student Council are involved in for our District. Mr. Kinney presented recipients of this month's Trailblazer awards to a student from Beechwood and Deerfield, who represent good character. He went on to give a final fall sports update. He also noted the District Advisory Committee (DAC) met and rolled out a few initiatives. He thanked volunteers for participating. The Mountainside Mentor program is also rolling out with about 25 volunteers who are willing to come into classes soon. The Parent/Student Survey will be closing soon with results shared in the near future. Staff wellness initiatives had a first visit in schools recently.**

Mr. Kinney then introduced Alexis Goldman from Solutions Architecture presented results from the Facilities Audit, to help report and be more proactive instead of reactive with maintenance and

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security of our buildings. The District-Wide Facilities Plan information has been shared with the board and it will evolve over time to deal with priorities and budgeting. Mr. Marini offered some comments and board members asked some questions and offered comments as well.

**XI. Business Administrator's Report - none**

**XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report** - Ms. Goldman went on to review the referendum proposal at Berkeley Heights, at the request of Mr. Dillon, so the Mountainside Board and community can weigh in for feedback before the vote goes to the Berkeley Heights community, and to understand the tax impact. Mr. Dillon reported from his last meeting that ended after midnight. They reviewed: HIB Self-Assessment reports; NJSLA reports; athletics updates; referendum conversations; committees structures for the board; Lower Columbia field lease agreement discussions; HIB training for the board.

**XIII. Administration**

*\* The walk-on motion #7 was added after an executive session residency hearing.*

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Administration #1-7**

Moved: Mr. Hyman                      Seconded: Mrs. Schiano  
RC:     Dillon - abstain 1 & 7    Goodwin - absent     Guidici Pietro - absent  
          Hyman - yes                      Pupo - yes                Schiano - yes            Venes - yes

1. **WHEREAS**, on October 14, 2025 the Board of Education received a report from the superintendent containing the results of investigations conducted by each school regarding alleged incidents of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB); and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15(b)(6)(c) states, the report also includes information on services provided, training established, discipline imposed, or other action taken or recommended by the superintendent; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has considered the report presented by the superintendent.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education affirms that the findings of the investigation and the report comply with the district's HIB policies and procedures for the following HIB incident(s):

**Cases: # 252601 and 252602**

2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the School Safety and Security Plan Annual Review Statement of Assurance (Attachment #2).
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the QSAC District Improvement Plan. (Attachment #3)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2025-2026 Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklist for Beechwood and Deerfield Schools. (Attachment #4)

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5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools October 2025 safety and security drill reports.
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood School Bus Evacuation Drill. (Attachment #5)
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that after a residency hearing on November 11, 2025, **Student #15368** is deemed not to be a resident of Mountainside.

**XIV. Budget and Finance**

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

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

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the month of October 2025. (Attachment #6)
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated October 16, 2025, through November 12, 2025. (Attachment #7)
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of October 2025, and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of October 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 October 2025:  
**RESOLVED THAT**, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the month of October 2025 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for October 2025 as submitted and certified (Attachment #8).
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 2025-2026 regular school year. (Attachment #9)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a transportation contract between Student Transportation of America and the Mountainside Board of Education, from 10/21/25-1/27/26, in the amount of \$22,000. (Attachment #10)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with Golden Arrow Transportation to provide transportation for the basketball season, at a rate of \$550.00 per bus. (Attachment #11)

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- 7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with G2 Athletics, LLC for an 8 session after school tennis program for Beechwood students, to be held January 8th-February 26th, at a cost of \$440 as outlined under Tier 6 usage fees in district Policy 7510. (Attachment #12)
- 8. 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 #13). 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.
- 9. **APPROVAL FOR REJECTION OF BIDS FOR THE SANITARY SEWER UPGRADES PHASE II AT DEERFIELD SCHOOL AND AUTHORIZING NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(c)**

**WHEREAS**, the Mountainside Board of Education (“Board”) duly advertised for bids for Sanitary Sewer Upgrades at Deerfield School in accordance with the Public School Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board received and publicly opened bids on April 29, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board received no responsive bid, as the only proposal submitted was non-responsive; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board re-advertised for bids, with bid opening held on November 4, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 4, 2025 at 11 a.m. the Mountainside Board of Education held a second bid opening for the Sanitary Sewer Upgrades at Deerfield School and the Interim Business Administrator/Qualified Purchasing Agent received and read aloud the following three (3)bids:

<b><u>Contractor</u></b>	<b><u>Base bid</u></b>	<b><u>Alternate 1</u></b>	<b><u>Total Bid</u></b>
HM Company, LLC	\$168,000	\$10,000	\$178,000
Catcord Const Co	\$285,300	\$25,500	\$310,800
Salazar & Associates	\$286,000	No bid	\$286,000

**WHEREAS**, the low bidder, HM Company, LLC has submitted a request to withdraw their bid due to a mathematical error and whereas, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-22(d);

**WHEREAS**, the bids by the other two bidders substantially exceeding the cost estimates for the goods or services and/or the board of education's appropriation for the goods or services;

**WHEREAS**, all bids received on the second round of bidding again substantially exceeded the cost estimates, and therefore, the Board is not able to award a contract within available budgetary limits; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(c), after the receipt and rejection of bids on two occasions, the Board may negotiate a contract with any responsible bidder who submitted a bid on the second occasion, provided that the negotiated price is reasonable, the terms are not

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substantially different from those in the original bid specifications, and all requirements of the Public School Contracts Law are otherwise met;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mountainside Board of Education that:

1. The Board approves the withdrawal of the bid by HM Company, LLC in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-22(d).
  2. The Board approves the rejection of the bids received on November 4, 2025 from Catcord Const Co and Salazar & Associates due the amount substantially exceeding the cost estimate.
  3. The Board authorizes the Interim School Business Administrator, in consultation with the Board Attorney and Board Architect/Engineer, to enter into negotiations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(c) with any responsible bidders who submitted bids on the second occasion, for the purpose of securing a contract within available budget limits.
  4. Notice of this action shall be provided in accordance with the Public School Contracts Law.
  5. Any negotiated contract shall be subject to approval by a formal resolution of the Board.
10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a 12-month agreement with BrightStar Care for nursing services, at a rate of \$110/hour, effective November 11, 2025. (Attachment #13A)

**XV. Personnel**

*\* A board member asked about the search for the Supervisor of Special Services position, to which Mr. Kinney replied. The Board was glad to see a Spanish Teacher is being approved.*

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Personnel #1-7**

Moved: Mrs. Schiano                      Seconded: Mr. Venes  
 RC:     Dillon - yes                      Goodwin - absent                      Guidici Pietro - absent  
           Hyman - yes                      Pupo - yes                      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, to accept the resignation of **Sheri Rouleau**, from the position of Supervisor of Special Services, effective December 26, 2025, and thank her for her service to our District. (Attachment #14)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 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.

Name	Position	Salary
<b>Victoria Tiscia</b>	Art Club (add'l due to high enrollment)	\$36.00/session NTE 30 sessions

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3. 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>Name</b>	<b>Certification</b>	<b>Rate</b>
<b>Anna Maria Matarredona</b>	Teaching Cert.	\$125/day
<b>Victoria Uhlick</b>	Sub Nurse	\$200/day
<b>Samantha Potito</b>	Sub Cert	\$115/day
<b>Aiden Negrón</b>	Sub Custodian	\$19.12/hour

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff & volunteers to assist Mr. Rosenblum and Mrs. Somers-Guerassio with the middle school play. Stipends will be paid through the Student Activities Music Fund.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Rate</b>
<b>Lindsey Garnhart</b>	Choreographer	\$3,225
<b>Irene Rigos</b>	Crew Manager	\$1,000

<b>Parent Volunteers &amp; *High School Volunteers **Pending Paperwork</b>		
Stephanie Gayol Phillipou Lillian Zawislak Irene Rigos Arena Diana Petrazzuolli DaraChesley-Borsellino Tonia Perkis Karen Malet Susanna Klippel Lisa Klemens Joshua Zawislak Michael Phillipou Ahmer Khan Liliana Silva Kelly Goodwin Rebecca Ladenheim Doug Freeman Jackie Happich Cecilia Martinez	Alison Quispe Jamie Asar Dana Guidicipietro Dara Blass Danielle Aspromatis Jen Herits Lisa Mak Keith McDougall Jennifer Rocha Erin Heyert Cat Domingues Fatima Wilches Dominique De Ocampo Sue Tarulli Jo Danberry	Chris Hasselgren James Dominick Michael Zolla Joseph Biland Eric Sanchez Rachel Faybyshev Jen Soares Jody Khan Nicole Rabinovich Kristen Di Certo Lindsay Henkel Lisa Hernandez Megan Lund  *Bea Silva *Jaxson Cooper  **Joshua Bezerra

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5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to appoint **Liliana Sanchez-Chouquet**, to the position of Spanish Teacher, at the salary of \$86, 900, BA Step 17, prorated, for the 25/26 school year. (Attachment#16)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following \*High School Volunteers to assist Mr. Rosenblum and Mrs.Somers-Guerassio with the middle school play:  
     \***Jasmine Vargas**  
     \***Sofia Saraiva**
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of **Angela Bento** to the 2025-2026 Substitute Teacher List, pending paperwork and successful criminal background check. (Attachment #17)

**XVI. Curriculum**

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

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

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

Bylaw 0143	Board Member Election and Appointment	Revised/Recommended
Bylaw 0173	Duties of Public School Accountant	Revised/Recommended
P 1636.01	Notification of Promotion, New Job, and Transfer Opportunities	New/Recommended

**XVIII. Old Business - none**

**XIX. New Business - none**

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- XX. Committee Reports** - Mrs Schiano reported from the Curriculum Committee meeting where they discussed a new AI Plan and Policy, the development of the 26/27 calendar, and the search for the Spanish teacher and Supervisor of Special Services.
- XXI. Public Participation** - none
- XXII. Adjournment**- Resolution (Attachment #1)

A motion was made by Mr. Venes at 8:55 p.m., seconded by Mr. Dillon to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 5 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Sullivan  
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary