



Mountain Lakes School District

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Mountain Lakes, New Jersey 07046
Phone: 973-334-8280 Fax: 973-334-2316
www.mlschools.org

NOTICE

The Regular Meeting of the Mountain Lakes Board of Education will be held on
Monday, January 12, 2026 at 6:30pm at Mountain Lakes High School,
96 Powerville Road, Mountain Lakes, New Jersey

AGENDA

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Mountain Lakes Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the Mountain Lakes Municipal Building and sent to the following newspapers: *The Daily Record, The Citizen, and the District Website (www.mlschools.org)*.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education hereby appoints Ivonne Ciresi as the Board Secretary pro tem for its meetings on February 2, 2026 and March 2, 2026, as recommended by the Superintendent.

ROLL CALL

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

Also present: Dr. Brad Siegel, Mrs. Ivonne Ciresi

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education enter into Executive Session was made by _____ and seconded by _____, that the Board of Education adopt the following resolution.

The motion was approved _____.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mountain Lakes Board of Education on this 12th day of January 2026 at _____ pm as follows:

1. The Board shall recess to closed session in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b (1), (2), (6), (7) and (8). The general nature of the discussion including matters of personal confidentiality rights, including but not limited to staff and/or student discipline matters, and specifically:

2. These matters will be disclosed to the public as soon as the need for confidentiality no longer applies. Although the Board cannot guarantee it, the length of the Executive Session is estimated to be _____ minutes after which the public meeting of the Board shall reconvene and proceed with business. Action may take place.

3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

MOTION to leave executive session at _____ was made by _____ and seconded by _____.

The motion was approved _____ and the Board returned to public session at _____.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPORT

MOUNTAIN LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENT COMMENT

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM THE MLEA CO-PRESIDENTS

PRESENTATIONS

- Ethics Presentation by NJSBA Representative, by Dr. Paul Pineiro

- Governor’s Educator of the Year Awards Recognitions by Dr. Siegel & Mrs. Ciresi
 - Lake Drive
 - Anthony Carangelo - Teacher of the Year
 - Lorraine DeGroot - Educational Service Professional of the Year
 - MLHS
 - Sarah Gillespie - Teacher of the Year
 - Debbie Goldsten - Educational Service Professional of the Year
 - Briarcliff
 - Michelle Major - Teacher of the Year
 - Ava Winget - Educational Service Professional of the Year
 - Wildwood
 - Allison Murphy - Teacher of the Year
 - Francesca Roselli - Educational Service Professional of the Year

BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT

SUPERINTENDENT / ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS

Public comment is set aside for the Board to hear feedback and questions from members of the public. The Board will take all comments and suggestions from the public into consideration. If you have more than one question, we request that all questions are asked within the time provided, as Public Comment is not intended for back and forth dialogue. If the Board is unable to answer your question(s) at this time, we will explain when and in what format the answer(s) will be communicated.

We request that you limit your questions or comments to 3 minutes and present all questions within those 3 minutes. Please state your name and address for the record. The Board appreciates and thanks you for your attendance and participation in our meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

BOONTON TOWNSHIP REPORT

COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR / BOARD SECRETARY

A. FINANCE

1. Presentation of Bills

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following bills list and check journals as of December 12, 2025 - January 9, 2026, as recommended by the Superintendent:*

	Fund	Amount
1.	General Fund (10)	\$447,042.84
2.	Special Revenue Fund (20)	\$939,201.70
3.	Capital Project Fund (30)	N/A
4.	Debt Service Fund (40)	N/A
5.	Cafeteria Account Fund (60)	\$71,933.42
6.	Total	\$1,488,177.96

2. Tuition Received: Non-resident, Individuals and other LEAs

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following enrollment, as recommended by the Superintendent:

	Action	Student ID	School-Program	Start Date	End Date	Tuition	Extra Services
DISTRICT							
1.	New	2471	Lake Drive Regular	1/5/26	6/30/26	\$53,074.17	N/A

3. Professional Services *Δ*

WHEREAS, the Mountain Lakes Board of Education (“Board”) has decided to secure the professional services to support the instructional programs of the district; and

WHEREAS, the Board is permitted, pursuant to the Public School Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq., to contract with vendors providing professional services, without advertising bids; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby awards the following contracts with vendors providing professional services, as recommended by the Superintendent:

	Contractor	Start Date	End Date	Nature / Service	Rate	Contract / Not to Exceed
DISTRICT						
1.	Fogarty, Hara, LaPira & Cherry Approval	1/1/2026	12/31/26	Law Firm	\$185/partner and of counsel \$165/associate \$125/law clerk \$85/paralegal	N/A
IVY H/WW/BC						
2.	DiCara Rubino Architect	6/15/26	8/25/26	Security Vestibule/Interior Renovations	N/A	\$54,000 (proposal fees)

4. Travel / Conferences Expenditures *Δ*

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following staff members to attend training and conferences in accordance with Policy 6471, as recommended by the Superintendent.

	Name	School	Location	Date	Event Name	Cost
DISTRICT						
1.	Crocker, Jennifer	LD ▾	Montclair, NJ	4/17/26	Pillars of Computer Science: AI	\$7
2.	Seibert, Tania	MLHS ▾	Online	12/18/25	AP Seminar Scoring Training	\$0
3.	Siino, Alyssa	MLHS ▾	Virtual	1/6/26 - 1/9/26	ROX - Ruling Our Experiences Facilitator Training	\$0
IVY H/WW/BC						
4.	Alves, Michael	BC ▾	Trenton, NJ	1/15/26	Leadership Development Training Session II	\$0
5.	Buzzelli, Vincent	BC ▾	Mount Olive, NJ	1/16/26	North Jersey Area Band Director's Meeting	\$0
6.	Doolittle, Christina	BC ▾	Montclair, NJ	3/10/26-3/11/26	NJECC Tech Conference	\$252
7.	Doolittle, Christina	BC ▾	Piscataway, NJ	3/24/26	The Association of Mathematics Teachers	\$216
8.	Mosera, Caitlin	BC ▾	New Providence, NJ	1/30/26	Proactive and Preventative Classroom Behavior Strategies/In-Class Support	\$115
9.	Hunt, Francesca	WW ▾	Virtual	2/7/26	NJIA: Winter Institute Food for Thought	\$105

5. Fundraising A

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following District Fundraisers, as recommended by the Superintendent:

	School	Fundraising Activity	Beneficiary/Purpose
DISTRICT			
1.	MLHS	Leading Edge Fundraising - start upon Board approval	Basketball Boys: Banquet Awards, Senior Day Activities/Gifts, Banners for Seniors, Team Shirts and Apparel, Team Warm-Ups
IVY H/WW/BC			
2.	BC	BC Musical cast and crew fundraiser selling "Wonka" bars and a lollipop for \$5. Candy will come from parents donating it to the fundraiser - week of March 23rd	All proceeds will benefit the Briarcliff Musical program.

6. Facilities Use A

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following request(s) for use of district facilities and grounds, as recommended by the Superintendent:

	Request	Purpose of Use	Facilities	Date	Time	Fee Type
DISTRICT						
1.	Heart Hustle Hockey	Active Kids Camp	Wilkins Field	7/6/26 - 7/10/26	9:00 am - 3:30 pm	Field Use
2.	Heart Hustle Hockey	Active Kids Camp	HS Auxiliary Gym	7/6/26 - 7/10/26	12:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Facilities Use
3.	Lakers Sports Club	Corn Hole Event	Wilkins Field or HS Main and Auxiliary Gym (*only in case of rain)	5/31/26	8:00 am - 3:00 pm	Custodial Fee TBD
4.	Mountain Lakes Library	Lunar New Year Celebration	HS Main Gym, Auxiliary Gym, Parking Lot	2/22/26	11:00 am - 6:15 pm	Custodial Fee
5.	Lakers Sports Club	Corn Hole Event	Wilkins Field or HS Main and Auxiliary Gym (*only in case of rain)	5/31/26	8:00 am - 3:00 pm	Custodial Fee TBD
IVY H/WW/BC						
6.	Girl Scout Troop 98116	Meeting	WW Classroom 231	1/30/26	3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	N/A

7. E.S.E.A. Grant A

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education accepts the final approval of the grant amounts and approves the submission of the 2025-26 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (E.S.E.A.) grant application, as recommended by the Superintendent:

Program	Allocation
Title II	\$10,836

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the submission of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Grant application to the New Jersey Department of Education and approves the implementation of the grant upon approval of the application, as recommended by the Superintendent.

B. MISCELLANEOUS

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. PERSONNEL

8. Appointments / Amendments/ Resignations / Rescission / Retirements / RIF's Δ

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	School	FTE	Degree/Step	Rate of Pay	Start Date	Term Date
DISTRICT										
1.	Feltman, Steven	Revise ▾	TCH-HS-PE-02	Teacher	M... ▾	1.0	BA/Step 15 to MA/Step 15	\$109,420	2/1/26	6/30/26
2.	Hourihan, Maria	Resign ▾	SPT-LR-AID-U2 9-42	P/T Paraprofessional	LD ▾	0.97	Step 9	\$27,939.30	11/18/25	1/9/26

Additional Class Coverages										
	Name	Action	UPC	Position	School	FTE	Degree/Step	Rate of Pay	Start Date	Term Date
DISTRICT										
3.	Richter, Deanna	Appoint ▾	TCH-LR-TCH-07	Teacher - Additional Coverage (5389)	LD@MLHS ▾	.2	MA+60 /Step 15	\$12,316	1/26/26	6/30/26
4.	Mackey, Jeannette	Appoint ▾	TCH-LR-TCH-22	Teacher - Additional Coverage/Prep (5389)	LD@MLHS ▾	.3	BA/ Step 15	\$15,789	1/26/26	6/30/26
5.	Martini, Danielle	Appoint ▾	TCH-LR-TCH-26	Teacher - Additional Coverage/Prep (5389)	LD@MLHS ▾	.3	MA/ Step 8	\$13,839	1/26/26	6/30/26
IVY H/WW/BC										
6.	Alves, Michael	Revise ▾	TCH-BC-TCH-09	Teacher - Additional Coverage	BC ▾	.08	MA/Step 15	\$6,049	11/17/25	6/30/26

9. Leaves of Absence Δ

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following leaves of absence, as recommended by the Superintendent:

	ID#	Action	Position	School	FTE	Start Date	Term Date
DISTRICT							
1.	5236	Revise MLOA (paid w/benefits)	Teacher	LD ▾	1.0	12/16/25	1/15/26
2.	5236	Revise FMLA (unpaid w/benefits)	Teacher	LD ▾	1.0	1/16/26	4/3/26
IVY H/WW/BC							
3.	4945	MLOA (paid w/benefits)	Teacher	WW ▾	1.0	1/5/26	2/3/26

4.	4945	FMLA (unpaid w/benefits)	Teacher	WW ▾	1.0	2/4/26	5/1/26
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10. 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	School	Degree/Step	Rate of Pay	Start Date	Term Date
DISTRICT								
1.	Adams, Sarah	Revise ▾	Dist. Prof. Dev. Committee (ScIP)	MLHS ▾	N/A ▾	\$1,500	8/25/25	6/30/26
2.	Malnati, Cole (OOD)	Appoint ▾	Non-Athletic: clock worker, crowd control, ticket taker, site manager	MLHS ▾	N/A ▾	BOE Approved Rate	8/1/25	6/30/26
3.	Posner, Dennis	Revise ▾	Dist. Prof. Dev. Committee (ScIP)	MLHS ▾	N/A ▾	\$1,500	8/25/25	6/30/26
4.	Suarez, Jennifer	Rescind ▾	Dist. Prof. Dev. Committee (ScIP)	MLHS ▾	N/A ▾	\$1,000	8/25/25	6/30/26

Clubs/Advisors								
	Name	Action	Position	Location	Degree/Step	Rate of Pay	Start Date	Term Date
DISTRICT								
5.	Price, Ryan	SELECT ▾	Spring Musical Technical Director	MLHS ▾	Step 1 ▾	\$2,805	1/12/26	3/9/26

11. Additional Compensation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following additional compensation, for extra earnings not listed in contract, as recommended by the Superintendent:

Time to Soar (AM & PM)								
Lake Drive Time to Soar								
	Name	Action	Position	Location	Rate of Pay	Start Date	Term Date	
1.	Matyiku, Melissa	Appointment	Program Assistant: Time to Soar	LD	\$24.40/hr.	1/13/26	6/30/26	

12. Substitutes, Volunteers and Intern Appointments

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following appointments, as recommended by the Superintendent:

	Name	Action	Position	School	Rate of Pay	Start Date	Term Date
DISTRICT							
1.	Sanclimenti, Anna	Appoint ▾	Per Diem Substitute	DW ▾	Board Approved Rate	1/13/26	6/30/26
2.	Sluck, Joseph	Appoint ▾	Volunteer - Boys' Basketball	MLHS ▾	N/A	11/24/25	3/8/26
3.	Zeris, Lauren	Appoint ▾	Per Diem Substitute	DW ▾	Board Approved Rate	1/13/26	6/30/26
IVY H/WW/BC							

4.	Hunter, Seth	Appoint ▾	Volunteer - Aviation Club	BC ▾	N/A	1/13/26	6/30/26
5.	Smart, Mary	Rescind ▾	FDU Student Clinical Field Experience - 30 Observation Hrs. (5721 & 5282)	WW ▾	N/A	1/2/26	5/9/26

District-Wide Volunteers							
	Name	Action	Position	School	Rate of Pay	Start Date	Term Date
DISTRICT							
6.	Conway, Sonja	Appoint ▾	Volunteer	DW ▾	N/A	1/13/26	6/30/26
7.	Sauer, Kimberly	Appoint ▾	Volunteer	DW ▾	N/A	12/17/25	6/30/26
8.	Schulze, Jennifer	Appoint ▾	Volunteer	DW ▾	N/A	1/13/26	6/30/26
9.	Serillo, Olyvia	Appoint ▾	Volunteer	DW ▾	N/A	1/13/26	6/30/26
10.	Thomas, Jay	Appoint ▾	Volunteer	DW ▾	N/A	1/13/26	6/30/26
11.	Vandenende, Gene	Appoint ▾	Volunteer	DW ▾	N/A	1/13/26	6/30/26

13. Field Trips *Δ*

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following field trips for the 2025-2026 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent:

	School	Destination	Reason	Date
DISTRICT				
1.	MLHS ▾	Mahwah, NJ	NJ DECA District Competition	1/2026
2.	MLHS ▾	Mountain Lakes, NJ	MLHS Jazz Band Performance at Lakeland YMCA for Senior Citizens	3/2026
3.	MLHS ▾	Ridgewood, NJ	NJ History Bee and Bowl State Championship	1/2026
IVY H/WW/BC				
4.	BC ▾	Livingston, NJ	Quiz Bowl Academic Tournament	2/2026
5.	BC ▾	Teaneck, NJ	Quiz Bowl -10th Annual Bergen Winter Classic	1/2026
6.	BC ▾	Jersey City, NJ	Lives Eliminated, Dreams Illuminated	2/2026

14. Tuition Reimbursement *Δ*

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	School	College/University	Course Title / #	Credits
DISTRICT					
1.	Boehm, Brianna	MLHS ▾	Colorado State	Building a Blended Classroom / 501ED	3.0
2.	Eklund, Keriann	MLHS ▾	American College of Education	Teaching with Google's AI Tools / OL-5381	3.0
3.	Eklund, Keriann	MLHS ▾	American College of Education	Co-Teaching: Partners in Practice/OL-5843	3.0
4.	Eklund, Keriann	MLHS ▾	American College of Education	Trust, Humor, Praise, & Connection for Meaningful Relationships with Students / OL-5643	3.0
IVY H/WW/BC					
5.	Branchini, Victoria	WW ▾	William Paterson University	Children's Literacy and Curriculum Design/ EL6170	3.0
6.	O'Melia, Katherine	WW ▾	Fairleigh Dickinson University	Diagnosis and Correction of Reading Problems / EDUC 676481	3.0
7.	O'Melia, Katherine	WW ▾	Fairleigh Dickinson University	Struc Lit Students w/RD 2 / EDUC 6814 85	3.0

B. CURRICULUM / SPECIAL SERVICES

C. MISCELLANEOUS

15. Mountain Lakes School District Summer Academy

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the 2026 Mountain Lakes School District Summer Academy program dates of Monday, June 22, 2026 - Friday, July 24, 2026, as recommended by the Superintendent.

16. Lake Drive Summer School Program

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the 2026 Lake Drive Summer School program dates of Monday, June 29, 2026 - Friday, July 24, 2026, as recommended by the Superintendent.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

PENDING LEGISLATION

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM THE PUBLIC

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION to enter into Executive Session was made by _____ and seconded by _____, that the Board of Education adopt the following resolution.

The motion was approved _____.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mountain Lakes Board of Education on this 12th day of January 2026 at _____ pm as follows:

1. The Board shall recess to closed session in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b (1), (2), (6), (7) and (8). The general nature of the discussion including matters of personal confidentiality rights, including but not limited to staff and/or student discipline matters, and specifically:
2. These matters will be disclosed to the public as soon as the need for confidentiality no longer applies. Although the Board cannot guarantee it, the length of the Executive Session is estimated to be _____ minutes after which the public meeting of the Board shall reconvene and proceed with business. Action may take place.
3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

MOTION, to leave executive session at _____ was made by _____ and seconded by _____
The motion was approved _____ and the Board returned to public session at _____.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at _____ was made by _____ and seconded by _____.

A 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 District 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

2025-2026 Board Goals

Board Goal	Committee Support
1. The Mountain Lakes Board of Education will work collaboratively to promote a culture of safety and security by establishing clear policies, providing ongoing training, and implementing systems that protect the well-being of all stakeholders.	Facilities, Finance, Long Range Planning
2. Through collective efforts as a full Board and in Committees, the Mountain Lakes Board of Education commits to working transparently and equitably to support the growth, success, and well-being of all students and staff members in all four schools in the District.	Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment, Long Range Planning, Special Education
3. The Mountain Lakes Board of Education will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of communication by ensuring timely access to key information, including committee meeting minutes and superintendent updates, to support informed decision-making and Board transparency.	Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment, Facilities, Finance, Long Range Planning, Negotiations, Personnel, Policy, Special Education, Shared Services
4. The Mountain Lakes Board of Education will collectively develop and utilize a long-range facilities plan to enhance the current and future educational, structural, and operational needs of the Mountain Lakes School District.	Facilities, Finance, Long Range Planning