

Mountain View School District
“A Community’s Commitment to Excellence”
Board of Education Public Meeting
Monday, January 12, 2026
MINUTES

1.1 Call to Order

The regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Education on January 12, 2026 was held in the James W. Zick Board Room and was called to order at 7:30 PM by Mr. Tracy Flynn President.

1.2 Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

1.3 Roll Call – Board Members Present:

Tracy Flynn, President; Mr. Michael Barhite, First Vice President; Mr. Michael Molenko, Second Vice President; Mr. Chase Poplawski; Mr. Dan Very; Mr. Jason Richmond; Mr. Kenneth Decker; Mr. Derek O’Dell.

Absent: Ms. Louise Cator.

Administration Present:

Dr. Mike Elia, Superintendent; Mr. Thomas Witiak, Business Manager; Mr. Patrick McGarry, Elementary School Principal; Dr. Bridget Frounfelker, Director of Curriculum; Attorney Joseph Gaughan, Solicitor.

Absent: Dr. Mark Lemoncelli, High School Principal; Mrs. Erica Loftus, Special Services Director.

1.4. Pride in Mountain View:

- Caroline Symuleski – SGA Representative
Caroline presented the MVSGA Liaison Report.
- PASR Grant Award Presentation
Ellen Holdridge presented Mrs. Stanton with a PASR Grant.
- Dr. Frounfelker – Johnson College
Dr. Frounfelker presented about Johnson College programs and career opportunities.

1.5. Approve the Board Minutes

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Poplawski, to approve the minutes dated December 1, 2025, as presented.

Motion 112 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent.

- 1.6. Treasurer's Report – Ms. Louise Cator, Treasurer**
○ Mr. Very 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.

- Allison Mack had a question about the bill list.

2. Finance Committee: Louise Cator, Chairperson

Committee Members: Dan Very, Chase Poplawski

2.1. Approve January Bill List

The motion is made by Mr. Very, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve the list of bills for January 12, 2026 for the General Fund in the amount of \$1,642,870.84 and the Cafeteria Fund in the amount of \$154,770.60 totaling \$1,797,641.44, as presented.

Motion 113 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent.

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

The motion is made by Mr. Very, second by Mr. O'Dell, 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 114 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent.

2.3. Approve Sweet, Stevens, Katz & Williams Fee Agreement 2026-2027

The motion is made by Mr. Very, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve the fee agreement between the Mountain View School District and Sweet, Stevens, Katz & Williams for the 2026-2027 school year, as presented.

Motion 115 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent.

2.4. Approve Tax Index

The motion is made by Mr. Very, second by Mr. Poplawski, that the Mountain View School District will not raise 2026-2027 taxes above its Act 1 index of 4.1%.

Motion 116 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent.

2.5. Approve Creation of Student Activity Account

The motion is made by Mr. Very, second by Mr. Molenko, to approve creation of the following student activity – Elementary Art Club for the 2025 -2026 school year.

Motion 116 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent.

3. Personnel Committee: Jason Richmond, Chairperson

Committee Members: Louise Cator, Kenneth Decker

3.1. Accept Coach Resignation

The motion is made by Mr. Richmond, second by Mr. O’Dell, to accept the letter of resignation from the following coaches:

- A. Darin Bain, JV Baseball Coach, effective January 7, 2026.
- B. Kalieb Schideler, JH Baseball Head Coach, effective January 7, 2026.
- C. Hunter Traver, JH Baseball Assistant Coach, effective January 7, 2026.
- D. Bryan Owens, Boys Volleyball Assistant Coach, effective January 7, 2026.

Motion 117 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent.

3.2. Authorize Posting and Advertising

The motion is made by Mr. Richmond, second by Mr. O’Dell, to approve the posting and advertising of the following position:

- A. JV Baseball Coach
- B. Boys Volleyball Assistant Coach

Motion 118 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent.

3.3. Approve Coaching Positions

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

- A. Track Assistant Coach, Melissa Flynn, \$2,790.00.
- B. Varsity Assistant Baseball Coach, Darin Bain, \$3,410.00.

Motion 119 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent.

3.4. Approve Long Term Substitute

The motion is made by Mr. Richmond, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve Bridget Sherring as a long-term substitute for having served more than 30 consecutive days as an Elementary Teacher with rate of \$165.00 per day effective November 21, 2025.

Motion 120 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent.

3.5. Approve Long Term Substitute

The motion is made by Mr. Richmond, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve Joanna Burchell as a long-term substitute for having served more than 30 consecutive days as an Elementary Teacher with rate of \$165.00 per day effective January 5, 2026.

Motion 121 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent.

3.6. Approve Rescinding of Retirement

The motion is made by Mr. Richmond, second by Mr. O'Dell, to accept the rescinding of Linda Drum's retirement letter from her food service position effective December 23, 2025.

Motion 122 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent.

3.7. Accept Retirement

The motion is made by Mr. Richmond, second by Mr. O'Dell, to accept the retirement of Linda Drum from her food service position effective July 10, 2026.

Motion 123 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent.

3.8. Accept Retirement

The motion is made by Mr. Richmond, second by Mr. Poplawski, to accept the retirement of Patricia Button from her Technology Coordinator position effective June 30, 2026.

Motion 124 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent.

3.9. Approve Volunteers

The motion is made by Mr. Richmond, second by Mr. Poplawski, to appoint the following volunteer(s):

- A. Nathan Ofalt, Nicholson, Wrestling
- B. Anthony Borgia, Waverly Twp, Baseball

Motion 125 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent.

3.10. Approve Uncompensated Leave

The motion is made by Mr. Richmond, second by Mr. Very, to approve uncompensated leave for staff #872 effective December 22, 2025 through March 27, 2026.

Motion 126 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent.

3.11. Accept Supplemental Salary Resignation

The motion is made by Mr. Richmond, second by Mr. Poplawski, to accept the resignation of Jessica Trichilo from her PJAS co-advisor supplemental salary position for the 2025-2026 school year.

Motion 127 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent.

3.12. Approve Elementary Teacher Position

The motion is made by Mr. Richmond, second by Mr. Poplawski, to appoint Joanne Burchel as an Elementary Teacher, at Bachelor's Step 1 with a salary of \$55,864 and benefits according to the MVEA Agreement, with a start date pending paperwork.

Motion 128 Carried: 7 Yes (Mr. Flynn, Mr. Barhite, Mr. Molenko, Mr. Poplawski, Mr. Very, Mr. Richmond, Mr. O'Dell), 1 No (Mr. Decker), 1 Absent (Ms. Cator).

3.13. Approve Supplemental Salary

The motion is made by Mr. Richmond, second by Mr. Very, to approve the following supplemental salary:

A. George Paterno, eSports

Motion 129 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent.

4. Policy Committee: Michael Molenko Chairperson

Committee Members: Michael Barhite, Chase Poplawski

4.1. Second Reading of Policies

- 138 – Language Instruction Educational Program for English Learners
- 252 – Dating Violence

Mr. Molenko led the discussion on Policy 138 and Policy 252.

4.2. Approve Policies

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. Poplawski, to approve the following policies:

- 146 – Student Services
- 144 – Standards for Victims of Violent Crimes
- 123.1 – Concussion Management
- 123.2 – Sudden Cardiac Arrest
- 143 – Standards for Persistently Dangerous Schools

Motion 130 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent.

5. Education Committee: Dan Very, Chairperson

Committee Members: Jason Richmond, Louise Cator

5.1. Approve Conference Requests

The motion is made by Mr. Very, second by Mr. Barhite, to approve the following conference requests:

- A. Mason Stiver, April 23-24, 2026, PMEA Annual In-Service Conference, Kalahari Resorts, PA (Travel: \$72.50, Lodging: \$340.00 Registration \$180.00, Substitute: \$230.00, Meals: \$120.00; Total: \$942.50).
- B. Karen Zaums, March 26 - 28, 2026, PSHA 2026 Conference, Kalahari Resort, PA, (Travel: \$51.04, Lodging: \$329.18, Registration: \$250.00, Meals: \$225.00; Total: \$855.22).
- C. Leslie Gossage, January 8, 2026, Title III Consortium Network Meeting, Online, (No Cost).
- D. Bridget Frounfelker, November 24, 2025, School and Safety Coordinator Training, Downingtown, PA, (Travel: \$207.85; Total: \$207.85).
- E. Lisa Kozloski, February 25-27, 2026, NASP Annual Convention, Online, (Registration: \$215.00; Total: \$215.00).

Motion 131 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent.

5.2. Approve Field Trip Requests

The motion is made by Mr. Very, second by Mr. Barhite, to approve the following field trip requests:

- A. Stephanie Kile, 12 Students, March 24, 2026, NEIU Reading Tournament, Archbald, PA (Travel: \$126.90, Substitute: \$115.00; Total: \$271.90).
- B. Rebekah Ihlefeldt, 6 Students, March 24, 2026, NEIU Reading Tournament, Archbald, PA (Travel: \$43.50, Substitute: \$115.00; Total: \$158.50).

- C. Kathy McHenry, FBLA, April 12-15, 2026, PA FBLA State Leadership Conference, Hershey, PA (Travel: \$2,196, Lodging: \$3,823.50, Registration: \$2,990.00, Substitute: \$345.00; Other: \$314.00; Total: \$9,668.50).
- D. Mason Stiver, 1 Student, January 21-23, 2026, PMEA District 9 Orchestra, North Pocono, PA (Travel: \$168.35, Registration: \$120.00, Substitute: \$345.00; Total: \$633.35).
- E. Mason Stiver, Jr. Band, April 15, 2026, Academic Alliance Program, Monticello, NY, (Travel: \$585, Substitute: \$115.00; Total: \$700).
- F. Mason Stiver & Nurse TBD, Sr. Band & Performing Arts Seniors, April 16-18, 2026, Academic Alliance Program, Monticello, NY, (Substitute: \$230, Other (nurse): \$345.00; Total: \$575).
- G. George Paterno, 5 students, December 20, 2025, eSports Conference Finals, Center Valley, PA, (Travel: \$149.80; Total: \$149.80).
- H. Andrea Aten & Anna Van Wert, Class 2026, March 25-28, 2026, Senior Trip, Orlando, FL, (Substitute: \$690.00; Total: \$690.00).
- I. Jamie Bottger, 19 students, January 26, 2026, Mozart Coronation Mass Masterclass, Clarks Summit, PA (Travel: \$74.87, Registration: \$475.00; Substitute: \$115.00; Total: \$689.87).
- J. Molly Birozak, 21 students, December 18 & 19, 2025, Chimettes Performances, Susquehanna, Forest City, Montrose, PA, (Travel: \$ 485.43; Total: \$ 485.43).
- K. Jenifer Davis, 9 students, NEPA Girls STEM Competition, Kalahari Resort, PA (Travel: \$92.80, Other: \$325.00; Total: \$417.00).

Motion 132 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent.

5.3. Approve Expulsion

The motion is made by Mr. Very, second by Mr. Poplawski, to approve the expulsion of student #27113 permanently.

Motion 133 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent.

6. **Building and Site Committee: Kenneth Decker, Chairperson**

Committee Members: Michael Molenko, Derek O'Dell

Mr. Chidester's Report

- Mr. Chidester mentioned that natural gas is working well. The gym and roof projects are complete.

7. **Transportation Committee: Derek O'Dell, Chairperson**

Committee Members: Michael Barhite, Michael Molenko

8. **Labor Relations Committee: Tracy Flynn, Chairperson**

MVEA Committee Members: Michael Barhite, Kenneth Decker, Jason Richmond

MVESPA Committee Members: Jason Richmond, Michael Molenko, Michael Barhite

9. Administration

9.1. Principals' Comments

Elementary Principal - Mr. Patrick McGarry

- Mr. McGarry thanked board for interviewing candidates. The flue went through the ES before the holiday break.

High School Principal - Dr. Mark Lemoncelli

- Absent.

9.2. Director of Special Services - Mrs. Erica Loftus

- Absent.

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

- Dr. Frounfelker discussed the changes to Act 44 notification to families. The SPO Handbook will completed soon.

9.4. Business Manager – Mr. Thomas Witiak

- Mr. Witiak mentioned the business office is working on the 2025 IRS submissions.

9.5. Superintendent - Dr. Michael Elia

- Dr. Elia said he will be working on the budget soon.

10. Closing

10.1. New Business from Board Members

- Mr. Richmond said he is wishing Dr. Lemoncelli a speedy recovery.

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.

- Sondra Stine asked about the traffic signage along State Route 106.

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

HELD:

- Monday, January 12, 2026 - 6:35pm – 7:25pm for Personnel

SCHEDULED:

- Monday, February 2, 2026 before the public meeting

11. Adjourn

The motion was made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Very, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Witiak