

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
January 20 , 2026**

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 6:45 p.m.

II. Roll Call

At roll call, the following members were present:

Mr. Bill Dillon
Mr. Michael Goodwin
Dr. Dana Guidiciopietro
Mr. Jordan Hyman
Mrs. Vivian Pupo
Mrs. Candice Schiano
Mrs. Lauren Worgan

Also present were Christopher Kinney, Superintendent of Schools, and Brooke Burik, Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

Moved: <u>Mrs. Schiano</u>	Seconded: <u>Dr. Guidiciopietro</u>		
RC: Dillon - yes	Goodwin - yes	Guidiciopietro - yes	
Hyman - yes	Pupo - yes	Schiano - yes	Worgan - 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:

- Residency updates
- Legal/Personnel matters
- HIB Reports
- Send/Receive contract

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 6:45 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: Dr. Guidici Pietro Seconded: Mrs. Schiano
RC: Dillon - yes Goodwin - yes Guidici Pietro - yes
 Hyman - yes Pupo - yes Schiano - yes Worgan - yes

The public meeting reconvened at 7:31 p.m.

V. Flag Salute

VI. Approval of Minutes

Moved: Mr. Hyman Seconded: Dr. Guidici Pietro
RC: Dillon - abstain Dec/yes Jan Goodwin - abstain Dec/yes Jan Guidici Pietro - yes
 Hyman - yes Dec/abstain Jan Pupo - yes Schiano - yes Worgan - abstain Dec/yes Jan

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 9, 2025
- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of December 9, 2025
- ❖ Minutes of the Reorganization Meeting of January 6, 2026

VII. Correspondence - none

VIII. Public Participation - none

IX. President's Report - none

X. Superintendent's Report - Mr. Kinney presented the Teachers, Educational Support Professionals, and Support Staff of the Year with certificates. He recognized 2 Noetic Math Honor Roll recipients, as well as 2 Trailblazers of the Month. He thanked the Board with January being Board recognition month. Ms. Kandl reported the STEAM program she teaches, and had 2 students speak about the work they've done in her class. She brought examples of some of the robotic and engineering projects students have done in her program as well. Mr. Kinney, along with our Administrative Team presented the State of the District, highlighting ongoing programs, and improvements and planning in technology and facilities. Finally, Mr. Kinney addressed the public and pledged his commitment to creating full time preschool in the future. He also addressed his new approach to discipline as it pertains to HIB.

XI. Business Administrator's Report - Ms. Burik reviewed the Budget Calendar and noted initial meetings with various department heads have been taking place.

XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report - Mr. Dillon reported on the various changes at Berkeley Heights with regard to Board president, board committees, and administration. There will be

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referendum communications to keep Mountainside residents informed, even though Mountainside residents don't vote in Berkeley Heights.

XIII. Administration

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

Moved: <u>Mr. Hyman</u>	Seconded: <u>Mrs. Schiano</u>
RC: Dillon - yes	Goodwin - yes Guidicipietro - yes
Hyman - yes	Pupo - yes Schiano - yes Worgan- abstain #2, yes 1,3-6

1. **WHEREAS**, the New Jersey State Board of Education has established rigorous standards through its promulgation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, which set the expectations of academic achievement for nearly 1.4 million public schoolchildren; and

WHEREAS, The New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2026 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time when all residents can acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members; and

WHEREAS, The Mountainside Board of Education is one of 581 local school boards in New Jersey, which sets policies and oversees operations for public school districts and embraces the goal of high-quality education for all New Jersey public school students; and New Jersey’s local school boards help determine the educational goals for approximately 1.4 million children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey’s 5,000 local school board members, who receive no remuneration for their services, act as advocates for public school students as they work with administrators, teachers and parents for the betterment of public education and School boards strive to provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of all students, including those with special needs; and

WHEREAS, Boards of education provide accountability to the public; they communicate the needs of the school district to the public; and they convey to school administrators the public’s expectations for the schools; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey can take pride in its schools, which rank among the nation’s best in key achievement indicators such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores, and the preparation for college through advanced placement offerings and SAT assessments;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountainside Board of Education, does hereby recognize the services of local school board members throughout New Jersey as we join communities statewide in observing January 2026 as SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mountainside Board of Education urges all New Jersey citizens to work with their local boards of education and public school staff toward the advancement of our children’s education.

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2. **WHEREAS**, on December 9, 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 incidents:

Case #s: 252605, 252606, 252608, 252610, 252611 252612, 252613

3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Memorandum Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials.
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar. (Attachment #2)
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Statement of Assurance Regarding the Use of Paraprofessional Staff – 2025-2026 School Year. (Attachment #3)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools December 2025 safety and security drill reports.

XIV. Budget and Finance.

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

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

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the month of December 2025. (Attachment #4)
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated December 16, 2025, through January 21, 2026.(Attachment #5)
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of December 2025 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of December 2025; and

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WHEREAS, the Board Secretary, Brooke Burik, 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 December 2025:

RESOLVED THAT, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the month of December 2025 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for December 2025 as submitted and certified. (Attachment #6)

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and pursuant to the authority granted by N.J.S.A. 18A: 44-4(B), the Mountainside Board of Education hereby establishes the following per pupil yearly tuition rate for non-disabled pupils enrolled in its preschool program (PEAK) for the 2026-2027 school year: \$5,800 for 5 half day sessions.
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MOUNTAINSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ENTER INTO THE MORRIS-UNION JOINTURE COMMISSION COOPERATIVE PRICING AGREEMENT WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-11 et seq. and N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) authorizes contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System and to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration; and

WHEREAS, the Morris-Union Jointure Commission, hereinafter referred to as the "Lead Agency", has offered voluntary participation in the Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods and services;

WHEREAS, on the governing body of the Board of Education of County, duly considered participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the provision and performance of goods and services relating to technology, professional development and staffing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

TITLE

This **RESOLUTION** shall be known and may be cited as the Cooperative Pricing Resolution of the Morris-Union Jointure Commission Board of Education.

AUTHORITY

Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-11 et seq., N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) and N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.1 et seq., the Board Secretary of the Board of Education is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency on the Board's behalf.

CONTRACTING UNIT

The Lead Agency shall be responsible for complying with the provisions of the Public School Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage. (Attachment #7)

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- 6. Move to approve, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the building use request with the Actor’s Camp for building use at Deerfield School from June 29th - July 25th based on Policy 7510, priority 5, and a payment schedule totaling \$11,000, excluding additional overtime costs that may be incurred.
- 7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with G2 Athletics, LLC for Summer Sports Camps for Beechwood students, to be held as follows with fees as outlined under Tier 6 usage fees in district Policy 7510:
 - June 23-26, 2026, at a cost of \$1,100
 - August 25-28, 2026, at a cost of \$1,100

8. **RESOLVED THAT**, by the School Board of Mountainside School District, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that it hereby appoints Brooke Burik as the School Alliance Insurance Fund Commissioner, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Fund Commissioner, Brooke Burik, and the School Alliance Insurance Fund.

- 9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, special education placements and services as per (Attachment #8)
- 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 #9). 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

Mrs. Pupo congratulated our Teachers, Educational Services Professionals, and Support Staff of the Year for their great work for our District.

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Personnel #1-3**

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro Seconded: Mr. Hyman
 RC: Dillon - yes Goodwin - yes Guidici Pietro - yes
 Hyman - yes Pupo - yes Schiano - yes Worgan - yes

- 1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to recognize the following staff members for their dedication to the students, families, and staff of the Mountainside School District. Their support, professionalism, and commitment to excellence is recognized and appreciated:

Beechwood School	
Laurie Naftulin	Teacher of the Year

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Leila Morrelli	Educational Services Professional of the Year
Nicole Ellis	Support Staff of the Year
Deerfield School	
Victoria Tiscia	Teacher of the Year
Kathleen Goldbeck	Educational Services Professional of the Year
Lauren Klein	Support Staff of the Year

2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a salary increase of \$4,000 for **Donna Bolton**, retroactive from January 1, 2026 for the 2025-2026 school year.
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following high school student volunteers to assist Mr. Rosenblum and Mrs.Somers-Guerassio with the middle school play.

Ally Gardner	Ava Shahid	Ashley Batista	Eleanor Delmar
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XVI. Curriculum

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

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

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

XVII. Policy

Mr. Hyman asked for clarification on P1552, to which Mr. Kinney responded.

The following motion was approved by roll call vote: **Policy #1-2**

Moved: Mr. Hyman Seconded: Mr. Dillon
 RC: Dillon - yes Goodwin - yes Guidicipietro - yes
 Hyman - yes Pupo - yes Schiano - yes Worgan - yes

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

Bylaw 0142.1	Nepotism	Revised/Mandated
P 1220	Employment of Chief School Administrator	Revised/Mandated
P / R 1552	Sexual Harassment	New/Mandated

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

P 2365	Acceptable Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)	New/Recommended
P 2530	Resource Materials	Revised/Recommended
P / R 2535	Library Material	New/Mandated
P 9130	Public Complaints	Revised/Recommended

XVIII. Old Business - none

XIX. New Business - none

XX. Committee Reports - none

XXI. Public Participation - none

XXII. Adjournment- Resolution (Attachment #1)

A motion was made by Dr. Guidiciopietro at 9:01 p.m., seconded by Mr. Dillon to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 7 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke Burik
Business Administrator/Board Secretary