

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
February 17, 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 6:46 p.m.

II. Roll Call

At roll call, the following members were present:

Mr. Bill Dillon - arrived after roll call at 6:47
Mr. Michael Goodwin
Dr. Dana Guidiciopietro
Mr. Jordan Hyman
Mrs. Vivian Pupo
Mrs. Candice Schiano
Mrs. Lauren Worgan

Also present were Brooke Burik, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and Isabel Machado, Board Attorney.

Christopher Kinney, Superintendent of Schools was absent.

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:

- Legal/Personnel Matters
- HIB Appeal

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 6:47 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: Mr. Hyman
RC: Dillon - yes Goodwin - yes Guidici Pietro - yes
 Hyman - yes Pupo - yes Schiano - yes Worgan - yes

The public meeting reconvened at 7:55 p.m.

V. Flag Salute

VI. Approval of Minutes

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

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 20, 2026
- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of January 20, 2026

VII. Correspondence - none

VIII. Public Participation - none

IX. President's Report - Mrs. Pupo noted that per Mr. Kinney, the Library Liaison is supposed to be the Superintendent, or a designee, not necessarily a board member. Mrs. Crisafulli has been covering this role and will continue to do so for the District.

X. Superintendent's Report - On behalf of Mr. Kinney, Mrs. Pupo together with Dr. Guidici Pietro and Mrs. Vierschilling honored the Mountainside Trailblazers. Mrs. Pupo introduced Mr. Rosenblum and students who performed a song from the upcoming show, Matilda. Mrs. Pupo also reported on the midyear review of QSAC that we are a high achieving district. She also reported on the SSDS report. There are no further district updates.

XI. Business Administrator's Report - Ms. Burik noted final budget meetings with administration are complete. State aid figures won't be out until the state passes their budget. Our preliminary budget will be presented at our next board meeting on Monday, March 16th.

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XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report - Mr. Dillon reported on the 1/22/26 meeting. They had an acapella group perform. There was a presentation on fundraising guidelines, particularly regarding GL athletics. They tabled a SREP grant application, which pertains to regionalizing or consolidating their school district, which may or may not impact Mountainside. There may be Berkeley Heights referendum information on social media, but Mountainside residents do not have a vote on the referendum, which will be on March 10th. For more information on the referendum, the GL PTO will host the superintendent for a Q&A session on 2/23/26.

XIII. Administration

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Administration #1-5**

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

1. **WHEREAS**, on January 20, 2026 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: 252615, 252616

2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Student Safety Data System (SSDS) Report, from September 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025, as reported to the NJ Department of Education. (Attachment #2)
3. **WHEREAS**, N.J.A.C. 6A: 23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicare Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2026-2027 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Mountainside Board of Education, desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that the state projects Mountainside having nine (9) Medicaid eligible classified students and is therefore not required to participate in SEMI.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountainside Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent to apply for the waiver with the Executive County Superintendent

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of Schools in the County of Union following submission of an appropriate waiver of the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3 for the 2026-2027 school year.

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following dates and times for the Extended School Year (ESY) Program for Summer 2026:
 - Dates: June 29, 2026 - July 30, 2026 (Monday - Thursdays, no school Fridays)
 - Times: 9:00 - 12:30
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools January 2026 safety and security drill reports.

XIV. Budget and Finance.

Mr. Hyman asked if our rate from Golden Arrow is the same as the fall. Ms. Burik responded.

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

Moved: <u>Mr. Hyman</u>	Seconded: <u>Mr. Dillon</u>		
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 months of January 2026. (Attachment #3)
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated January 22, 2026, through February 19, 2026. (Attachment #4)
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of January 2026 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the months of January 2026; and

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 January 2026:

RESOLVED THAT, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the months of January 2026 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for January 2026 as submitted and certified. (Attachment #5)

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with G2 Athletics, LLC for Sports Camps open to Beechwood students, at costs as outlined under Tier 6 usage fees in district Policy 7510. (Attachment #6) Club Dates G2 Usage Fees Tennis Club (Gr. K-2) March 19-May 21 \$440
5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with Golden Arrow Transportation to provide transportation for the spring season, at a rate of \$550.00 per bus. (Attachment #7)

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6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, building use application for Mountainside FC, Inc. from March - June 2026. It is recommended to approve use by this non-profit organization as a Priority 4 use, as indicated in board Policy 7510, with fees being waived for this current request. In the event that any custodial or maintenance fees are required, the organization will be charged accordingly.
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with IMAC Agency as the district's State Health Benefits Program Consultants from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, in the amount of \$30,000. (Attachment #8)
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a contract with the YMCA of Westfield, New Jersey, to provide Before/After Care Program Services for the Mountainside School District, providing a revenue stream to the Mountainside School District in rental fees for fiscal year 2026-2027, in the amount of \$19,400 effective September 8, 2026 through June 22, 2027. (Attachment #9)
9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, special education placements and services as per (Attachment #10).
10. Move to approve in accordance with MBOE policy 6471, School District Travel, and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the travel and related expenses itemized in (Attachment #11). 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.

XV. Personnel

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Personnel #1-4**

Moved: Mr. Goodwin Seconded: Mrs. Schiano
 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, an medical leave of absence for **Employee # 90194044** from January 14, 2026 through approximately March 12, 2026.
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following leave of absence (Attachment #12):

Name	Position	LOA w/ pay & benefits	LOA unpaid with benefits (if applicable)	Extended LOA w/o pay or benefits	Return Date
E. Barton	Guidance Counselor	5/4/26-5/15/26	n/a	5/18/25-11/27/26	11/30/26

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3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to appoint **Amanda Figueroa**, as a long term substitute, at the per diem rate of \$190, beginning February 17, 2026 through approximately March 12, 2026.
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following volunteers & *high school student volunteers to assist Mr. Rosenblum and Mrs.Somers-Guerassio with the middle school play.

Matt Wasserman	Nick Bove	Jamie Asaro
Tood Bletcher	Pranathi Aedla-Pandya	Casey McKay Lee
Joe Scocoza	Jessica Schaeffer	Weezie Hough
Masha Navarre	Kara Fleming	Rajen Pandya
Begona Viqueira	Gib Freeman	Pamela Alarva
Bryan Boswell	Judy Bletcher	Marie Rose
Patrick Navarre	Jennifer Lee	Julia Stoddard
Ryan Perkins	Rebecca Biland	Joanne Huss
Dion Malet	Rhiannon Marwaha	*Charlotte Keenan
Dave King	Angie Aleman	*Sofia Phillipou
Rodney Hough	Denise Daley	*Gia delCueto
Rosemary Caixinha	Diana Palmiery	*Val Bove

XVI. Curriculum

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

Moved: Mrs. Schiano 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, field trips as detailed to the Board of Education.

XVII. Policy

The Board discussed the proposed changes to P7510. Committee members who met with Mr. Kinney previously explained the rationale for the updates.

The following motion was approved by roll call vote: **Policy #1-3**

Moved: Mr. Goodwin 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:

P 7510	Use of School Facilities	Revised
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2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following policies for the second reading and adoption:

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

3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to abolish the following policies / regulations:

P 3362	Sexual Harassment
P 4352	Sexual Harassment

XVIII. Old Business - none

XIX. New Business - none

XX. Committee Reports - Mr. Hyman reported on the Send/Recieve Committee meeting on 2/9/26 with both the Berkeley Heights and Mountainside superintendents present, which provided clarification on some topics that may be helpful for ongoing negotiations. He also reported on the Referendum/Strategic Planning Committee that met on 2/13. They met to discuss 1st and 2nd level priorities from the Architect's presentation, along with timelines and budgeting on various projects in our buildings to consider.

XXI. Public Participation - none

XXII. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro Seconded: Mr. Goodwin
 RC: Dillon - yes Goodwin - yes Guidici Pietro - 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 Report(s)
- 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 8:27 p.m. to discuss the above mentioned matter to the exclusion of all others. No further action will be taken.

XXIII. Close Executive Session and Adjournment- Resolution (Attachment #1)

A motion was made by Mr. Dillon at 9:16 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Schiano to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 7 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke Burik
Business Administrator/Board Secretary