

Mountain View School District
“A Community’s Commitment to Excellence”
Board of Education Public Meeting
Monday, March 2, 2026
MINUTES

1.1 Call to Order

The regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Education on March 2, 2026 was held in the James W. Zick Board Room and was called to order at 7:10 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: VACANT

Administration Present:

Dr. Mike Elia, Superintendent; Mr. Thomas Witiak, Business Manager; Mr. Patrick McGarry, Elementary School Principal; Dr. Bridget Frounfelder, Director of Curriculum; Mrs. Erica Loftus, Special Services; Tim Chidester, Director of Buildings and Grounds; Attorney Joseph Gaughan, Solicitor.

Absent: Dr. Mark Lemoncelli, High School Principal.

1.4. Pride in Mountain View:

- Caroline Symuleski – SGA Representative
 - Caroline presented the MVSGA Liaison Report.

- Interviews for Vacant Region 1 – Clifford School Board Seat
 - The school board interviewed Justin Fletcher, Brad Owens, Robert Sedlak, Shawn Shear, Kirsten Smith, and Mary Ann Vauder for the vacant school board seat.

- Budget Presentations
 - Technology - Ms. Patty Button
 - Ms. Button presented the 2026-2027 Technology Budget.

 - Buildings & Grounds – Mr. Tim Chidester
 - Mr. Chidester presented the 2026-2027 Buildings and Grounds Budget.

- Comprehensive Plan for 2026-2029 School Year – Dr. Bridget Founfelker
 - Dr. Frounkelfer presented the 2026-2029 Comprehensive Plan.

1.5. Approve Region 1 – Clifford School Board Seat

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Poplawski, to approve Kirsten Smith, as Region 1 – Clifford School Board Member term concluding December 2027.

Motion 148 Carried: 6 Yes (Mr. Barhite, Mr. Poplawski, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Very, Mr. Richmond, Mr. Molenko), 2 No (Mr. Decker, Mr. O'Dell).

Mrs. Smith takes her seat as a Mountain View School Board member.

1.6. Approve the Board Minutes

The motion is made by Mr. Richmond, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve the minutes dated February 2, 2026, as presented.

Motion 149 Carried: 9 Yes.

1.7. Treasurer's Report – VACANT, Treasurer

- Mr. Richmond presented the Treasurer's Report.

1.8. 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.

- Ted Brewster asked clarifying questions about the agenda.
- Robert Sedlak asked about interviewing of open coaching positions.

2. Finance Committee: VACANT, Chairperson

Committee Members: Dan Very, Chase Poplawski

2.1. Appoint School District Treasurer for 2025-2026

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Poplawski, to appoint Jason Richmond as school district treasurer for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.

Motion 150 Carried: 9 Yes.

2.2. Approve March Bill List

The motion is made by Mr. Very, second by Mr. Poplawski, to approve the list of bills for March 2, 2026 for the General Fund in the amount of \$1,141,500.31 and the Cafeteria Fund in the amount of \$53834.57, totaling \$1,195,334.88, as presented.

Motion 151 Carried: 9 Yes.

2.3. Approve Memorandum of Agreement with Scranton Counseling Center

The motion is made by Mr. Very, second by Mr. Poplawski, to approve the memorandum of agreement between the Mountain View School District and Scranton Counseling, as presented.

Motion 152 Carried: 9 Yes.

2.4. Approve Transfer of Funds

The motion is made by Mr. Very, second by Mr. Poplawski, to authorize transfer of funds from General Fund Bank Account to Athletic Fund Bank Account in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Motion 153 Carried: 9 Yes.

2.5. Approve 2026-2027 NEIU General Operating Budget

The motion is made by Mr. Very, second by Mr. Poplawski, to approve the 2026-2027 NEIU General Operating Budget, as presented.

Motion 154 Carried: 9 Yes.

3. Personnel Committee: Jason Richmond, Chairperson

Committee Members: VACANT, 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. Michele Pavelski, JH Softball Head Coach, effective February 19, 2026.
- B. Lacie Jagger, JH Softball Assistant Coach, effective February 18, 2026.

Motion 155 Carried: 9 Yes.

3.2. 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, Christina Curtis, \$2,790.00.
- B. Track Assistant Coach, Josie Evans, \$2,790.00.
- C. Boys Volleyball Assistant Coach, Matt Lavin, \$3,410.00.
- D. JH Baseball Head Coach, James Wodock, \$3,025.00.
- E. JH Baseball Assistant, Jerry Wasilchak, \$1,578.50.
- F. JH Softball Head Coach, Lacie Jagger, \$3,025.00.
- G. JH Softball Assistant Coach, Vanessa Harvey, \$1,578.50.

Motion 156 Carried: 9 Yes.

3.3. Authorize Posting and Advertising

The motion is made by Mr. Richmond, second by Mr. O'Dell, to authorize posting and advertising for the following Winter sports coaching positions:

- A. Girls and Boys Varsity & JH Basketball Head and Assistant Coach
- B. Girls and Boys 5th/6th Grade Basketball Coach
- C. Cheerleading Advisor & Assistant Advisor
- D. Varsity Wrestling Head and Assistant Coach
- E. JH Wrestling Coach

Motion 157 Carried: 9 Yes.

3.4. Approve Volunteer

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

- A. Callie Lavin, Mayfield, Boys Volleyball
- B. Michele Pavelski, Susquehanna, Softball

Motion 158 Carried: 9 Yes.

3.5. Accept Resignation

The motion is made by Mr. Richmond, second by Mr. O'Dell, to accept the resignation of Alex Pashchuk from his Athletic Director position effective May 8, 2026.

Motion 159 Carried: 9 Yes.

3.6. Authorize Posting and Advertising

The motion is made by Mr. Richmond, second by Mr. O'Dell, to authorize posting and advertising for an Athletic Director with benefits per the Act 93 Agreement.

Motion 160 Carried: 9 Yes.

3.7. Appoint Custodian Position

The motion is made by Mr. Richmond, second by Mr. O'Dell, to appoint Logan Pliska as a Custodian at a starting rate of \$13.20 per hour and benefits per MVESPA Agreement, with a start date of February 18, 2026.

Motion 161 Carried: 9 Yes.

3.8. Approve Substitute

The motion is made by Mr. Richmond, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve the following substitute:

- A. Niki McHugh, Kingsley, Custodian Substitute
- B. Haley Bills, Clifford Twp, Custodian Substitute, pending paperwork
- C. Megan Bills, Clifford Twp, Custodian Substitute, pending paperwork
- D. Katie Teel, South Abington Twp, Nurse Substitute, pending paperwork
- E. Abbey Mack, Kingsley, Nurse Substitute

Motion 162 Carried: 9 Yes.

3.9. Approve NEIU Board Member

The motion is made by Mr. Richmond, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve Chase Poplawski as the Mountain View School District representative on the NEIU Board from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2029.

Motion 163 Carried: 8 Yes (Mr. Richmond, Mr. O'Dell, Mr. Molenko, Mr. Barhite, Mr. Very, Mr. Flynn, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Decker), 1 Abstain (Mr. Poplawski).

3.10. Approve Amended Agenda

The motion is made by Mr. Richmond, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve amending the agenda in order to approve retirements.

Motion 164 Carried: 9 Yes.

3.11. Approve Retirements

The motion is made by Mr. Richmond, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve the professional employee retirements at the conclusion of the 2025-2026 school year of:

- Charlene Martens
- Allison Bluhm

Motion 165 Carried: 9 Yes.

4. Policy Committee: Michael Molenko Chairperson

Committee Members: Michael Barhite, Chase Poplawski

4.1. Second Reading of Policies

- 218.1 - Weapons
- 226 – Searches
- 819 – Suicide Awareness, Prevention, and Response
- 114 – Gifted Education

5. Education Committee: Dan Very, Chairperson

Committee Members: Jason Richmond, VACANT

5.1. Approve Conference Requests

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

- A. Sarah Evans, February 11, 2026, Every Moment Matters, Archbald, PA, (Travel: \$34.80, Substitute: \$115.00; Total: \$149.80).

Motion 166 Carried: 9 Yes.

5.2. Approve Field Trip Requests

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

- A. Allison Martino, 25 students, February 13, 2026, Susquehanna County Career & Technology Center Tour, Springville, PA (Travel: \$164.57; Total: \$164.57).
- B. Sarah Evans, Melissa Berish, Charissa Ofalt, 4 students, March 17, 2026, YMCA, Carbondale PA, (Travel: \$55.60; Total: \$55.60).
- C. Stacy Decker, Brittany Latwinski, Kim Fletcher, Nurse TBD, Life Skills Classroom, March 11, 2026, Buff City Soap, Dickson City, PA (Travel: \$108.28; Total: \$108.28).
- D. Jaime Bottger, 26 students, County Chorus, Susquehanna, PA (Travel: \$112.63, Registration: \$780.00, Substitute: \$115.00; Total: \$1,007.63).

Motion 167 Carried: 9 Yes.

5.3. Approve 2026-2027 District Calendar

The motion is made by Mr. Very, second by Mr. Richmond, to approve the 2026 -2027 District Calendar, as presented.

Motion 168 Carried: 9 Yes.

5.4. Approve Mark's Driving School, LLC

The motion is made by Mr. Very, second by Mr. Richmond, to approve Mark's Driving School, LLC to provide the Mountain View Students with behind the wheel driving instruction and testing for the 2026-2027 school year, as presented

Motion 169 Carried: 9 Yes.

5.5. Approve High School Program of Studies

The motion is made by Mr. Very, second by Mr. Richmond, to approve the 2026-2027 High School Program of Studies as presented.

Motion 170 Carried: 9 Yes.

6. Building and Site Committee: Kenneth Decker, Chairperson

Committee Members: Michael Molenko, Derek O'Dell

Mr. Chidester's Report

- Mr. Chidester said he can't wait to work on the fields.

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 said this is a very busy time of year. The STEM team is competing at Kalahari. He thanked Mrs. Bluhm and Mrs. Martens for their service.

High School Principal - Dr. Mark Lemoncelli

- Absent.

9.2. Director of Special Services - Mrs. Erica Loftus

- Mrs. Loftus announced that the unified bocce team advanced in the playoffs. PASSA testing is this week.

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

- Dr. Frounfelker mentioned that mid-year curriculum data is being analyzed. There is a new mandatory personal finance course starting next year.

9.4. Business Manager – Mr. Thomas Witiak

- Mr. Witiak said he is working on the budget with Dr. Elia.

9.5. Superintendent - Dr. Michael Elia

- Dr. Elia said he is working diligently on the budget.

10. Closing

10.1. New Business from Board Members

- Mr. Decker said that the officials really like the new locker rooms.
- Mr. Flynn thanked everyone who interviewed for the vacant school board seat.

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.

- Ted Brewster asked if Mountain View is participating in the local spelling bee.

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

HELD:

- Monday, March 2, 2026 - 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm for Personnel

SCHEDULED:

- Monday, March 30, 2026 before the public meeting

11. Adjourn

The motion was made by Mr. Richmond, second by Mr. Very, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Witiak