



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, April 27, 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

ROLL CALL

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

Also present: Dr. Brad Siegel, Mr. Greg Brennan, Mrs. Ivonne Cirese

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 27th day of April 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 _____.

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING for 2026-2027

PUBLIC COMMENT on the 2026-2027 Budget only

CLOSE PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPORT

MOUNTAIN LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENT COMMENT

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM THE MLEA CO-PRESIDENTS

PRESENTATIONS

- MLHS - Wellness Summit by Mr. Mangili and Ms. DeTrolio

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

2026 COMMITTEES

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment James Hirschfeld (Chair) Aruni Don Sara Forman Lauren Silva McIntyre	Finance Lauren Silva McIntyre (Chair) Sara Forman James Hirschfeld Aru Kulkarni	Personnel Joanne Barkauskas (Chair) James Hirschfeld Aru Kulkarni Jennifer Parker
Co-Curricular Committee Aruni Don (Chair) Chris Johnson Jennifer Parker Lauren Silva McIntyre	Long Range Planning Aruni Don (Chair) Chris Johnson Julia McVeigh Purvika Sheth	Policy Aru Kulkarni (Chair) Julia McVeigh Jennifer Parker Purvika Sheth
Facilities Sara Forman (Chair) Aru Kulkarni Julia McVeigh Purvika Sheth	Negotiations Jennifer Parker (Chair) Aru Kulkarni Lauren Silva McIntyre	Special Education/Student Services Purvika Sheth (Chair) Lauren Silva McIntyre Julia McVeigh
		Shared Services Joanne Barkauskas Sara Forman Jennifer Parker

2026 LIAISONS

Home and School Association (HSA) Julia McVeigh	ML Friends of the Arts (FOTA) Aru Kulkarni	Sound Start Babies Foundation Aruni Don
Laker Sports Club (LSC) Sara Forman	NJ School Boards Delegate Vacant	
ML Alumni Association (MLAA) Jennifer Parker	Recreation Commission Sara Forman	
ML Education Foundation (MLEF) Lauren Silva McIntyre	Representative to the County SBA Vacant	

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR / BOARD SECRETARY

A. FINANCE

1. 2026-2027 Budget Public Hearing

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the resolution pertaining to the approval of the 2026-2027 budget as presented at the public hearing on April 27, 2026, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Mountain Lakes School District Board of Education adopted a tentative budget for the 2026-2027 budget fiscal year on March 16, 2026, to be submitted to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval; and

WHEREAS, the tentative budget was approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools on April 18, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the budget was advertised in the legal section of the Daily Record on April 23, 2026, and the Citizen on April 23, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the budget was presented to the public during a public hearing on April 27, 2026; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education withdraws \$1,050,000 from Capital Reserve as budgeted in NJDOE budget line 600, for capital project costs associated with Districtwide Phone System Installation estimated at \$350,000, for capital project costs associated with the Districtwide Two-way Radios estimated at \$50,000, for capital project costs associated with the Lake Drive and Briarcliff Security Vestibule/Interior Renovations at \$650,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education withdraws \$637,500 from Maintenance Reserve as budgeted in NJDOE budget line 630, to support the district's required maintenance budget, maintenance projects and facility rental/upgrades; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education withdraws \$400,000 from Tuition Reserve as budgeted in NJDOE budget line 640, for anticipated tuition adjustments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education includes in the tentative budget, the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$1,264,323. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefit premiums; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes School District Board of Education approve the 2026-2027 budget supported by a general fund local tax levy in the following amounts, as recommended by the Superintendent:

	FUND	BUDGET	LOCAL TAX LEVY
1.	TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$47,558,578	\$26,733,470
2.	TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUND	\$490,133	\$0
3.	TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	\$1,572,282	\$1,458,894
4.	TOTALS:	\$49,620,993	\$28,192,364

2. Presentation of Bills

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following bills list and check journals as of April 10, 2026 - April 23, 2026, as recommended by the Superintendent.*

	Fund	Amount
1.	General Fund (10)	\$253,306.51
2.	Special Revenue Fund (20)	\$36,854.31
3.	Capital Project Fund (30)	N/A
4.	Debt Service Fund (40)	N/A
5.	Cafeteria Account Fund (60)	\$7,183.54
6.	Total	\$297,904.36

3. Budget Transfers

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve and authorize the School Business Administrator / Board Secretary’s action of making budgetary transfers pursuant to the attached March Transfer Report, as recommended by the Superintendent.*

4. Treasurer’s Report

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the Treasurer’s Reports for the month ending March, as recommended by the Superintendent.*

5. Board Secretary’s Report

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the Board Secretary’s Report for the month ending March, as recommended by the Superintendent.*

6. 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	1851	Lake Drive Regular	4/20/26	6/30/26	\$17,934.32	\$8,173.26
2.	New	Temp-15	Lake Drive Regular	4/20/26	6/30/26	\$17,934.32	N/A

7. Wildwood Time to Soar SY27 Rates ⚠

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the Wildwood Time To Soar tuition rates for the 2026-2027 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent:

	Description	Proposed Monthly Rates FY27
Before School (7:00am - 8:25am)		
1.	5 Days	\$243
2.	4 Days	\$199
3.	3 Days	\$151
4.	2 Days	\$104
5.	1 Day	\$53
After School (3:00pm - 6:00pm)		
6.	5 Days	\$437

7.	4 Days	\$378
8.	3 Days	\$303
9.	2 Days	\$212
10.	1 Day	\$133
Combined		
11.	5 Days	\$560
12.	4 Days	\$499
13.	3 Days	\$429
14.	2 Days	\$314
15.	1 Day	\$182

8. Ivy Hall Before/Aftercare Rates Δ

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the Ivy Hall Before and Aftercare tuition rates for the 2026-2027 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent:

	Description	Proposed Monthly Rates SY27
Before School (8:00am-8:45am)		
1.	5 Days	\$122
2.	4 Days	\$100
3.	3 Days	\$76
4.	2 Days	\$53
5.	1 Day	\$28
After School (2:30pm-6:00pm)		
6.	5 Days	\$500
7.	4 Days	\$440
8.	3 Days	\$353
9.	2 Days	\$247
10.	1 Day	\$155
Combined		
11.	5 Days	\$528
12.	4 Days	\$470
13.	3 Days	\$405
14.	2 Days	\$290
15.	1 Day	\$172

9. Professional Services

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
1.	VantageSportz	7/1/2026	6/30/2028	Athletic events calendar (Activity Scheduler) and Facility Usage calendar (Facility Scheduler)	N/A	NTE \$1,550

2.	Filiaci, Patricia	4/27/26	6/30/26	Speech Language Specialist (Increased Enrollment)	\$115/hr.	NTE 16 hrs./wk.
3.	Silvergate Prep	4/27/26	6/30/26	Home Instruction (5535197279)	\$50/hr.	NTE 80 hrs.

10. Travel / Conferences Expenditures ▲

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.	DeMuth, Jennifer	LD ▾	Hamilton, NJ	4/30/26	Handle With Care Management System	\$649
2.	Gillespie, Sarah	MLHS ▾	Virtual	6/2/26 - 6/3/26	AP US Government and Politics Reading	\$0
IVY H/WW/BC						
3.	Carlson, Erik	BC ▾	Atlantic City, NJ	10/15/26 - 10/16/26	NJPSA Conference	\$610
4.	Peterson, Danielle	BC ▾	Bloomfield, NJ	6/5/26	Science Standards vs Engineering Standards at PRISM	\$210
5.	Sumsion, Marlene	BC ▾	Bloomfield, NJ	6/5/26	Science Standards Versus Engineering Standards, Is There a Difference? Grades K-8	\$220

11. Fundraising

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 ▾	Class of 2027 - Dine to Donate at Chipotle in Parsippany, NJ - 5/4/26	Raise funds for the junior class senior year activities.
2.	MLHS ▾	French Club will host a food-based fundraiser by selling pre-packaged, bought French snacks (cookies, pastries, and candy) to students and staff. - 4/30/26	The funds raised will be donated to a humanitarian organization, either UNICEF or Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders), to support global health, emergency relief, and aid for communities in need.

12. Facilities Use ▲

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.	Lakeland YMCA	Soccer Club Try-outs	Halsey Field A (Upper)	5/5/26 & 5/6/26	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Class IV Fee
2.	Mountain Lakes Borough Rec.	Boys Lacrosse	Flynn Field	4/19/26 5/3/26	11:30 am - 7:00 pm 8:30 am - 12:00 pm	Class III Fee
3.	Mountain Lakes Borough Rec.	Girls Lacrosse	Flynn Field	Saturdays 5/2/26 - 5/19/26	1:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Class III Fee
4.	Mountain Lakes Borough Rec.	HUB Volleyball (Adult)	HS Auxiliary Gym	Thursdays 4/23/26 - 5/14/26	7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Class III Fee
5.	Mountain Lakes Borough Rec.	HUB Women's Softball (Adult)	Halsey B Softball Field	Wednesdays 7/1/26 - 8/12/26	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Class III Fee

6.	Mountain Lakes Borough Rec.	HUB Men's Softball (Adult)	Halsey B Softball Field	Sundays 5/31/26 - 8/16/26	8:00 am - 12:00 pm	Class III Fee
IVY H/WW/BC						
7.	Lightbridge Academy	Pre-K Graduation Rehearsal and Pre-K Graduation	WW Gym and Stage	6/16/26 & 6/17/26	3:30 pm - 5:00 pm	Class V Fee

B. MISCELLANEOUS

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. PERSONNEL

13. 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:*

(Staff Appointments for 26-27 school year are included in backup A - District and B - IVY H, WW, BC, pursuant to the terms of collective bargaining agreements and employment contracts.)

	Name	Action	UPC	Position	School	FTE	Degree / Step	Rate of Pay	Start Date	Term Date
DISTRICT										
1.	Romano, Maria	Resign ▾	SPS-LR-AID-U29-35	Paraprofessional P/T	LD ▾	0.97	Step 9	\$27,939.30	1/24/24	6/30/26

14. Leaves of Absence

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.	5221	FMLA/NJFLA (Unpaid w/benefits)	Teacher	MLHS ▾	1.0	8/24/26	11/13/26
2.	5221	CCLOA(Unpaid w/o benefits)	Teacher	MLHS ▾	1.0	11/16/26	3/19/27
3.	5174	Revise MLOA (paid w/benefits)	School Social Worker	DW ▾	1.0	4/20/26	5/29/26
4.	5174	FMLA/NJFLA (unpaid w/benefits)	School Social Worker	DW ▾	1.0	6/1/26	10/23/26
5.	4168	FMLA/NJFLA (unpaid w/benefits)	Interpreter	LD ▾	1.0	6/3/26 (.5)	6/12/26
6.	5544	Revised MLOA (paid w/benefits)	Occupational Therapist	LD ▾	1.0	5/21/26	6/3/26
7.	5544	Revised MLOA (unpaid w/benefits using FMLA)	Occupational Therapist	LD ▾	1.0	6/4/26	6/30/26
8.	5544	FMLA/NJFLA (unpaid w/benefits)	Occupational Therapist	LD ▾	1.0	8/24/26	11/13/26

15. 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:

	Name	Action	Position	School	Rate of Pay	Start Date	Term Date
DISTRICT							
1.	Landwehrle, Amanda	Appoint	Child Study Team - Additional Hours (5174)	BC	Hourly Rate (NTE 48 hrs.)	4/20/26	6/30/26
2.	Mackey, Jeanette	Appoint	Academic Support Program Instructor	MLHS	Hourly Rate (NTE 30 hrs.)	3/1/26	5/1/26
IVY H/WW/BC							
3.	Ficara, Lauren	Appoint	8th Gr. Annual Boston Trip	BC	\$125/night (NTE 2 nights)	6/9/26	6/11/26
4.	Winget, Ava	Rescind	8th Gr. Annual Boston Trip	BC	\$125/night (NTE 2 nights)	6/9/26	6/11/26

16. 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.	DaSilva, Natalia	Appoint	Per Diem Substitute	LD	Board Approved Rate	4/27/26 (pending paperwork)	6/30/26
2.	Matyiku, Melissa	Appoint	Long Term Substitute (5198)	LD @ BC	\$190/day	4/28/26	6/30/26
3.	Reis, Rayane	Appoint	Per Diem Substitute	DW	Board Approved Rate	4/27/26 (pending paperwork)	6/30/26
IVY H/WW/BC							
4.	Marquis, Alexandra	Appoint	Endicott College Clinical Internship (Guidance) 120 Hours #5216	BC	N/A	5/1/26	6/30/26

17. Field Trips

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	HHighland Park, NJ	Model UN Conference	5/26
2.	LD	Mountain Lakes, NJ	Nature Hike	6/26

18. Tuition Reimbursement

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
IVY H/WW/BC					
1.	Branchini, Victoria	WW	William Paterson University	Organization & Supervision of Reading Programs / 6240	3.0

B. CURRICULUM / SPECIAL SERVICES

19. Program of Studies *Δ*

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approves the Briarcliff Course of Studies for the 2026-2027 school year as presented by the administration, as recommended by the Superintendent.*

C. MISCELLANEOUS

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 27th day of April 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 _____.

Δ 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