

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

April 29, 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 6:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

At roll call, the following members were present:

Mr. Bill Dillon

Mr. Michael Goodwin

Dr. Dana Guidici Pietro - arrived after roll call at 6:20 p.m.

Mr. Jordan Hyman

Mrs. Vivian Pupo

Mrs. Candice Schiano

Mrs. Lauren Worgan

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

III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

Moved: Mrs. Schiano

Seconded: Mr. Goodwin

RC: Dillon - yes

Goodwin - yes

Guidici Pietro - absent

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

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 6:01 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. Dillon
RC: Dillon - yes Goodwin - yes Guidici Pietro - yes
 Hyman - yes Pupo - yes Schiano - yes Worgan - yes

The public meeting reconvened at 7:41 p.m.

V. Flag Salute

VI. Public Hearing on the 2026-2027 Final Budget - Ms. Burik presented the details in the Final Budget for the 2026-2027 school year. Mr. Kinney went on to highlight the planned increase of personnel for a new ABA program, and no reduction of positions otherwise. He noted other areas of facilities and security that affect the budget. He commented on the large increase for health insurance and potential options per our broker. He also mentioned the high school send/receive contract that will impact the 27/28 school year and potential options. Mr. Kinney also noted he is exploring selling off unused school property as a potential cost savings. The Board asked questions about the cost savings or possible revenue for the new ABA program at Deerfield, to which he responded. The Board asked other questions about transportation and the costs associated with it for out-of-district and parent contracts, as well as with Durham. Health benefits increasing 30% was also discussed. Ms. Burik and Mr. Kinney responded to both topics. Mr. Dillon highlighted the impact of the send/receive tuition on our budget after next year when the contract with Berkeley Heights expires. This may ultimately impact class sizes at Beechwood and Deerfield down the road.

VII. Approval of Minutes

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

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 16, 2026
- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of March 16, 2026

VIII. Correspondence - none

IX. Public Participation - none

X. President's Report - none

XI. Superintendent's Report - Mr. Kinney honored Deerfield art students who participated in various competitions recently, and thanked Mrs. Tiscia and other staff for their involvement in these

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programs. He then recognized this month's Mountainside Trailblazers. He provided an update on the sewer line work at Deerfield, which is expected to finish on time by May 11th. He is hoping the facilities parent and community surveys will gain plenty of feedback for the board to consider when preparing a referendum. He congratulated Beechwood for raising \$28,000 through the Kids Heart Challenge for the American Heart Association.

XII. Business Administrator's Report - none

XIII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report - Mr. Dillon reported from their last 2 meetings. They presented the preliminary budget, and the referendum. The press box at the high school will have a grand opening next month. The turf field will need replacing after this upcoming year. Berkeley Heights referenced the send/receive communications that continue to take place between the attorneys for both sides.

XIV. Administration

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

Moved: <u>Dr. Guidici Pietro</u>	Seconded: <u>Mr. Goodwin</u>		
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, job descriptions for School Based Mental Health Clinician and BCBA/Behaviorist. (Attachment #2)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools March 2026 safety and security drill reports.
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Deerfield School Spring Bus Emergency Evacuation drill report. (Attachment #3)

XIV. Budget and Finance

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-14**

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

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the month of March 2026. (Attachment #4)
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated March 18, 2026, through April 29, 2026. (Attachment #5)

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3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of March 2026 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of March 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 March 2026:

RESOLVED THAT, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the month of March 2026 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for March 2026 as submitted and certified. (Attachment #6)

4. **WHEREAS**, the Mountainside Board of Education adopted a tentative budget 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 7, 2026 and

WHEREAS, the tentative budget was advertised in the legal section of the Westfield Leader on April 16, 2026 and posted on our school website; and

WHEREAS, the final budget was presented to the public during a hearing held at Deerfield School on April 29, 2026.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountainside Board of Education hereby adopts the following final budget for the school year 2026-2027

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUES	DEBT SERVICE	TOTAL
2026-27 Total Expenditures	\$22,927,533	\$138,601	\$1,288,616	\$24,354,750
Less: Anticipated Revenues	\$3066,683	\$138,601	\$438,130	\$3,643,414
Taxes to Be Raised	\$19,860,850	\$0	\$850,485	\$20,711,335

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mountainside Board of Education includes in the tentative budget the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$187,736. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefit premiums.

BE IT RESOLVED that the general fund appropriations include a \$60,000 withdrawal from the Tuition Reserve Account which were deposited into the account in SY 2024-2025 and are now required to be withdrawn to pay tuition obligations in SY 2026-2027.

BE IT RESOLVED that included in the general fund appropriations, budget line 620 is a withdrawal from Capital Reserve – Other Capital Projects in the amount of \$170,000 to be used to upgrade security systems at Beechwood and Deerfield Schools. The total cost of this project is

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\$170,000 which represents expenditures for construction elements or projects that are in addition to the facilities efficiency standards determined by the Commission as necessary to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

Travel and Related Expenses Reimbursement:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district;

AND, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education established \$26,000 as the maximum travel expenditure for the 2025-2026 school year and has expended \$5,043.23 as of this date.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3 to a maximum expenditure of \$26,000 for the 2026-2027 school year.

5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Dr. Ronald M. Frank, MD FAAFP, to provide School Physician Services, in the amount \$2,425, for the 2026-2027 school year. (Attachment #7)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a 12-month agreement with BrightStar Care for nursing services, at a rate of \$110/hour, effective July 1, 2026. (Attachment #8)
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Student Transportation Contract Renewal with Durham School Service for the 2026-2027 school year, at an increased rate of 2% for all 5 routes. (Attachment #9)
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Rates and Other Services Agreement with Union County Educational Services Commission for 2026-2027 (Attachment #10).
9. Motion to approve upon recommendation of the superintendent, continued participation in various state and national cooperative contracts as a method of procurement in accordance with Chapter 139 PL 2011 as referenced in Local Finance Notice 2012-12, May 14, 2012 for the 2025-2026 school year to include:
 - Educational Data Services, Inc with a licensing and maintenance fee of \$1,865 plus \$2,225 for Time and Materials Bids. (Attachment #11)

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10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to contract with R&L DataCenters, Inc., for payroll and related services from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. (Attachment #12)
11. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the proposal from JAG Consulting, LLC. for information technology services in the 2026-2027 school year at a rate of \$35.70 an hour. (Attachment #13)
12. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the e2e Exchange Renewal Service Agreement effective July 2026-January 2027. (Attachment #14).
13. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the service contract with Cablevision Lightpath LLC effective July 1, 2026 for 36 months at a rate of \$1085.60 per month. (Attachment #15)
14. 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 #16). 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 Board thanked Mrs. Scanlan for her years of service, impact on our students, and wished her the best in retirement.

**New personnel employment appointments are contingent upon the required state and federal criminal history background checks (in accordance with N.J.S.A. CH 116, P.L. 1986), required certification, and completion of employee paperwork).*

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Personnel #1-9**

Moved: Dr. Guidicipietro 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 retirement of **Sharon Scanlan**, 7th Grade Language Arts Teacher, effective July 1, 2026, and thank her for her 25 incredible years of service. (Attachment #17)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of the following new hires for the 2025/2026 and 2026-2027 school year: (Attachment #18)

Name	Loc	Position	Salary/Step	Start	End
Jessica Cronin	DF	Guidance Counselor (Leave Replacement)	\$60,080 Step 1 MA (25/26 SY) and	4/29/26	12/1/26

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			\$61,080 Step 1 MA (26/27 SY)		
Eric Lung	DF	Physical Education (Leave Replacement)	\$57,000 Step 1-3 BA (25/26 SY)	4/20/26	6/19/26

3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a medical leave of absence as outlined below: (Attachment #19)

Name	LOA w/ pay & benefits	FMLA unpaid with benefits	Return Date
Employee #40229262	4/22/26-5/4/26	5/5/26-5/31/26	6/1/26
Employee #46414470	4/7/26-5/12/26	n/a	5/13/26

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff member(s) to serve as mentors during the 2025-2026 school year:

Staff Member	Assignment (dates are approx.)	Fee Amount
April Starling	Eric Lung 8 weeks: 4/27/26-6/19/26	\$267 (CE) prorated amount

5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **Judy Wargaski** for up to 10 hours/week of home instruction for **Student #3695174857**, at the rate of \$44/hour, effective immediately.
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following temporary custodial workers for summer employment as outlined below, upon successful criminal background check and paperwork.

Name	Days	Rate	Approx. Total
Cole Williams	8 Weeks (July-Aug)	\$19.50/hr.	\$5,850
Ayden Negron	8 Weeks (July-Aug)	\$19.50/hr.	\$5,850

7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of the following to the 2025-2026 Substitute List, pending paperwork and successful criminal background check. (Attachment #20)

Name	Certification	Rate
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Katrina Bernard	Teacher Cert	\$125 per diem
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And the removal of **Brian Solish** from the 25-26 Substitute List, effective 2/13/26.

8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff for 2025-2026 School Year Stipend Positions, contingent upon student enrollment for those student activities subsidized in accordance with Board Policy 2436, Activity Participation Fee Program.

Staff Members	Position	Rate
Bryan Young	8th Grade Trip Chaperone	\$278 (3+ yr rate)
Axl Hirsch	8th Grade Trip Chaperone	\$278 (3+ yr rate)
Sarah Onore	8th Grade Trip Chaperone	\$278 (3+ yr rate)
Nina Woo	8th Grade Trip Chaperone	\$278 (3+ yr rate)
Jessica Goldstein	8th Grade Trip Chaperone	\$278 (3+ yr rate)
Corrin Lavery	8th Grade Trip Chaperone	\$278 (3+ yr rate)
Dan Kessler	8th Grade Trip Chaperone	\$278 (3+ yr rate)
Madison Phillips	8th Grade Trip Chaperone	\$265 (1-2 yr rate)
Sonia Branco	8th Grade Trip Chaperone	\$278 (3+ yr rate)
Suzanne Jenks	8th Grade Trip Administrator	n/a

9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staffing for the 2026-2027 ESY Program from June 29, 2026 through July 30, 2026, from 9:00-12:30, Mon-Thurs (no school Fridays), as detailed below: (Attachment #21)

Salary based on MEA Contract

Name	Position	Salary/Hour
Lisa Bruno	School Nurse	\$44.00/hour
Leila Morrelli	Speech & Language Specialist	\$44.00/hour
Maria Ivakhiv	Special Education Teacher	\$44.00/hour
Jessica Milstrey	Special Education Teacher	\$44.00/hour
Jenna Rasp	Special Education Teacher	\$44.00/hour

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Molly Phillips	Special Education Teacher	\$44.00/hour
Lauren Meyers	Special Education Teacher	\$44.00/hour
Dayna Carroll	Special Education Teacher	\$44.00/hour
Maria DeAnna	Substitute Special Ed. Teacher	\$44.00/hour
Lauren Klein	ABA Paraprofessional (6/29-7/10)	\$29.43/hour + ABA
Aneta Ferriere	Paraprofessional (7/13-7/30)	\$28.89/hour
Michaela Etlinger	Paraprofessional	\$28.89/hour
Mary Valenzano	Paraprofessional	\$28.89/hour

XVI. Curriculum

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

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

XVII. Policy

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

Moved: Mr. Hyman Seconded: Mr. Dillon
 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, the following policies/regulations for the first reading:

P 3412	Placement on Guide Column	New/Recommended
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XVIII. Old Business - Dr. Guidici Pietro thanked the staff and community who attended the successful PTO spring fling, final numbers are still pending.

XIX. New Business - none

XX. Committee Reports - Mr. Hyman reported from the Referendum Committee that they are picking up the pace with surveys to be aggressive with communications with the public to

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address the priorities. Mr. Kinney is looking at the tax impact and debt service aid and what qualifies for this as well. Meetings will continue. Mr. Hyman continued to report from the Send/Receive Committee, that they are awaiting communication from the attorneys to have additional updates. Mr. Dillon commented about the referendum and the items already being addressed in the current budget with Capital Reserves that will lessen what we need to put into a referendum.

XXI. Public Participation - none.

XXII. Adjournment- Resolution (Attachment #1)

A motion was made by Dr. Guidici Pietro at 8:29 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