



Site Council Meeting Minutes #4 5/6/26

Mountainside Middle School Conference Room 7:15-7:45am

🏆 Integrity 🤝 Community 👥 Respect 😊 Excellence 🌈 Acceptance ❤️ Middle Level Learner Uniqueness

Mountainside Vision: To offer meaningful opportunities for all learners to explore and develop skills and traits needed to reach their highest potential as contributors to creating a better and more peaceful world

Mountainside Mission: Mountainside Middle School strives to develop principled, caring, and inquisitive learners in order to prepare them to be knowledgeable and respectful global citizens

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Called to order 7:15 am Amy Hardy
- Attending - Lisa Robbins, Trenton Corea, Nick Alamshaw, Penny Dyer, Cheryl Graham, Amy Hardy, Brett Warner, Matthew Pittinsky

2. Approval of Agenda & Minutes

- Review/approve today's agenda - approved
- Review/approve minutes from last meeting, now posted on school's website - approved

3. Principal's Report

- Key school updates (enrollment, staffing, instruction) Enrollment has gone up significantly. Goal is 523 by the start of next year.
 - Enrollment 2025-2026 Mountainside Middle School **6th** 148 **7th** 153 **8th** 206 **total** 507
 - Enrollment 2026-2027 Mountainside Middle School **6th** 187 **7th** 154 **8th** 161 **total** 502
 - Discipline Snapshot - data looks good but needs another year to see significant patterns.
 - 2024-2025 total incidents (referrals) 149 OSS 84
 - 2025-2026 total incidents (referrals) 85 (43% decrease) OSS 34
 - Fighting dropped 53.8% decrease
 - Minor aggression 52% decrease
 - Recklessness 78% decrease

- Staffing
 - Open positions: Guidance 1.0 not posted yet because of surplus
 - New hires 7th ELA: Stacy O'Malley 6th Science: Erin Hansen
 - Assistant principal - Erika Symons, pending board approval
- Instruction: IBMYP Visit Evaluation went well. We excelled in 5 areas:
 - Purpose: IB mission and learner profiles are shared language
 - Environment: student support and safe nurturing learning environment
 - Culture: connection with community: Blue Zones, strong family communication
 - Learning: students describe multiple opportunities to apply their learning
 - Approaches to Teaching: Strong Supportive Teachers and extracurricular activities
- Upcoming events & highlights:
 - **Future Cougar Day** TODAY!
 - Students from Anasazi and Laguna will visit MMS and get a short tour of the campus. All future cougars will receive a red class of 2033 lanyard to promote wearing their ID.
 - **Open house lunch** on Friday 5/8 split lunch
 - **8th Grade Promotion Ceremony** 5/21 9:30am @ DM, **Celebration dance** 5/20, **Field trip** to Mavrix 5/19
 - **End of year activities** for students 5/20-5/22 includes "house party" yearbook signing party, talent show/lip sync battle competition
 - Students are earning the opportunity to participate with grades, attendance, and behavior being reviewed by administration on 5/15

4. Committee & Budget Updates

Academic & Activities Snapshot - Amy Hardy

Academics:

- AASA state testing completed
- Math Olympiad competition participation
- Science Olympiad earned 3rd place at state
- Algebra trip to Biosphere 2 in Tucson
- Gifted class trip to the Phoenix Art Museum

Quarter 4 Athletics:

- Co-ed Track and Field season
- Finals meet held on April 30

- Girls' team earned 2nd place in the district

Clubs & Activities:

- Choir, orchestra, and band trips to California
- Drama Club production of *The Great Gatsby*
- Jazz on the Mountainside event
- Jazz Band performance
- Yearbook finalized

Finance Update - Cheryl Graham

- Student Activities
 - Student Government bake sale raised over \$250
 - General tax credit campaign via ParentSquare generated \$6,775
 - Club accounts remain well-funded through strong Q1 fundraising and ongoing events
 - Partnered with PTO on eighth grade activities
 - Single-fee structure for field trip and dance increased participation (151 students this year vs. 105 in 2025)
- Maintenance & Operations:
 - Training and travel funds supported IB training for Ciafullo, Goldstein, Lair, and Hardy
 - End-of-year spending included:
 - Math hallway displays featuring famous mathematicians
 - New supplies for the ELA department
- Capital
 - **Science:** 2 Chomp Saws
 - **PE:** new equipment volleyball, lacrosse, pickleball, basketball, football
 - **Ideas Lab:** 2 3D printers

6. Open Forum / Next Steps

- Parent question: How does staffing change with increased enrollment?
 - If enrollment increases by 5–10 students, an additional 1.0 FTE would be allocated.
- Guidance counselors are still awaiting assignments from the surplus pool.
- Introduction of Board Member Pittinsky (DM Complex); families are encouraged to reach out with any questions or concerns.

7. Adjourned - 7:39 am

WIG (Wildly Important Goal #1)

By May 2026 Mountainside will increase AASA Math scores by 3% using MTSS-A interventions

By May 2026 Mountainside will increase AASA ELA Scores by 3% using MTSS-A interventions

By May 2026 Mountainside will increase 8th grade Azsci scores by 3% using MTSS-A interventions

WIG (Wildly Important Goal #2)

By August 2026, Mountainside Middle School will increase student enrollment by 3% (15 students total increase) through intentional promotion of the IBMYP programme. This will be achieved by (1) marketing MYP consistently via school social media platforms and weekly community updates, (2) documenting teacher trainings and unit development in Toddle, and (3) capturing tour data. Progress will be measured through enrollment data, tour tracking logs, and documentation of trainings/units, ensuring consistent monitoring and adjustment of strategies.

Benchmarks / Checkpoints: Current Enrollment 507 Goal 523

New Hire Bios

7th Grade ELA-Stacy O'Malley

My name is Stacey O'Malley and I am so thrilled to join the Mountainside community. I live in North Scottsdale with my husband, two children and two dogs. As a family, we love sports. We are especially HUGE Phoenix Suns fans and spend lots of weekends at D-Bat or on the fields! We also like to travel and try out new restaurants. Some of my favorite places I have been include

Carlsbad, Telluride, Switzerland and London. My dream vacation, however, is an African safari. I love coffee, dark chocolate and salt and vinegar chips. I also love to read and will never turn down a family game night. I have been teaching in Scottsdale at Ingleside Middle School for the last three years. I received a B.A. in Secondary Education- English from ASU and am currently working on finishing a Master's in Special Education. My favorite thing to teach is writing and my favorite novel to teach is *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech. I can't wait to get started on the next chapter of my story at Mountainside Middle School!

6th Science-Erin Hansen

Erin Hansen is an accomplished science educator with over 25 years of teaching experience, primarily within the Scottsdale Unified School District. She believes science education should inspire curiosity and critical thinking while empowering students to see themselves as scientists and problem-solvers. Throughout her career, Erin has developed deep expertise in science education and instructional technology by integrating technology and real-world applications to help students see science in action.

Her background in both Biology and Psychology allows her to understand how students learn science most effectively. Erin holds a Bachelor's degree in Biology, a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, and a Master's degree in Education with a technology emphasis. Her National Board Certification reflects her dedication to continuous growth and evidence-based teaching practices. As a native Arizonan who has lived here her entire life, Erin has deep roots in her community and a strong commitment to local schools. When she is not in the classroom, she enjoys spending time with her husband, two children, and two dogs. Erin values work-life balance and cherishes the moments spent with her family outside of school.