

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

May 12, 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 5:59 p.m.

II. Roll Call

At roll call, the following members were present:

Mr. Bill Dillon

Mr. Michael Goodwin

Dr. Dana Guidici Pietro

Mr. Jordan Hyman

Mrs. Vivian Pupo

Mrs. Candice Schiano - arrived after roll call at 6:01 p.m.

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 7:40 p.m.

V. Flag Salute

VI. Approval of Minutes

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

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 29, 2026
- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of April 29, 2026

VII. Correspondence - none

VIII. Public Participation - none

IX. President's Report - Mrs. Pupo wished everyone good luck with finishing state testing and the end of the year. She noted that she, along with other board members, and Mr. Kinney attended the press box grand opening at the high school.

X. Superintendent's Report - Mr. Kinney recognized this month's Mountainside Trailblazer. He noted the community survey is still open for responses. He mentioned some great end of year activities, including the Kindergarten concert and 8th grade trip to Washington, DC. He noted that NJSLA testing is finishing up soon and thanked Mrs. Goldbeck and Mrs. Crisafulli for facilitating the testing. Mr. Kinney reviewed the 2024-2025 District and School HIB Grades Report. Some board members commented and asked questions, to which Mr. Kinney responded.

XI. Business Administrator's Report - none

XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report - Mr. Dillon reported from their last 2 meetings. On 4/30 they finalized the budget, which had a \$500,000 adjustment from the preliminary budget. He commented on a great Robotics Team presentation, and hopes our students could partner more with the high school on this. AP testing completed. The board discussed a policy on Board members handing out diplomas to their own children. They also discussed the press box opening,

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and discussed possible future lighting. On May 6th, the STEAM Team presented their project. A popular math teacher resigned. The fall athletics schedule was approved as well.

XIII. Administration

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

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro

Seconded: Mrs. Schiano

RC: Dillon - yes

Goodwin - yes

Guidici Pietro - yes

Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes

Schiano - yes

Worgan - yes

1. **WHEREAS**, on April 29, 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: **252620, 252621, 252622, 252623**

2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Comprehensive Equity Plan Statement of Assurance for the 2026-2027 school year. (Attachment #2).
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools April 2026 safety and security drill reports.
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood School Spring Bus Emergency Evacuation drill report. (Attachment #3)

XIV. Budget and Finance

**Mr. Hyman commented on #5 that he's happy to see lunch prices are the same, and on #9 thanked the Watts Foundation for their continued support.*

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **Budget and Finance #1-11**

Moved: Mr. Hyman

Seconded: Mr. Goodwin

RC: Dillon - yes

Goodwin - yes

Guidici Pietro - yes

Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes

Schiano - yes

Worgan - yes

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1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the month of April 2026. (Attachment #4)
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated April 30 2026, through May 12, 2026. (Attachment #5)
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of April 2026 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of April 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 April 2026:

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

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with Horizon to provide Dental Benefits from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, with rates per (Attachment #7)
5. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Mountainside School District, upon the recommendation of Brooke Burik, Business Administrator, hereby award and approve the extension of the contract with Maschio's Food Service for the 2026-2027 school year with a FSMC fixed price fee of \$11,262.71 with a guarantee return of \$1,000, total cost of contract is \$287,513.10. Approved student lunch prices for Elementary and Middle School is \$3.85.
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to contract with Strauss Esmay Associates, LLP for Policy Alert and Support System (PASS) and annual district online maintenance fee in the amount of \$4,915.00 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. (Attachment #8)
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to contract with Global Compliance Network, Inc. (GCN) for staff tutorials in the amount of \$1,680.00 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. (Attachment #9)
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with Next Step Pediatric Therapy for physical therapy services and evaluations at a rate of \$100/hour, not to exceed \$28,000.00 for ESY 2026 and the 2026-2027 school year. (Attachment #10)
9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept a donation from the Watts Foundation, in the amount of \$3,640.50, to be used for the following:
(Attachment #11)
 - 8 Flex-Space Chairs
 - 6 ChompSaws
 - Wireless Transmitter, Headset and Wiring
 - Wireless PA System

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10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Architect of Record agreement with Solutions Architecture for the 2026-2027 school year. (Attachment #11A)

11. **WHEREAS**, there exists a need for professional services in the specific area(s) of Audit Services; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Public School Contracts Law (NJSA 18A:18A-1 et seq.) permits the award of contracts without competitive bids for Professional Services that require licensing and are regulated by law; and

WHEREAS, the Public School Contracts Law requires that the Board of Education adopt a resolution awarding such contracts at a public meeting.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mountainside Board of Education, as follows:

1. The appointment of **John Mooney** from the firm of Nisivoccia, LLP as Auditor for a fee not to exceed \$52,500.00 for the 2025-2026 school year audit.
2. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" under the provisions of the Public School Contracts Law because Auditors are a recognized profession licensed and regulated by law. (Attachment #11B)

XV. **Personnel**

**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 #1-10**

Moved: Dr. Guidici Pietro

Seconded: Mr. Hyman

RC: Dillon - no #2, yes to all others

Goodwin - yes

Guidici Pietro - yes

Hyman - yes

Pupo - yes

Schiano - yes

Worgan - yes

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the **certificated tenured personnel** list for the 2026-2027 school year. (Attachment #12)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the **certificated non-tenured personnel** list for the 2026-2027 school year. (Attachment #13)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the **affiliated non-certificated staff (secretaries and custodians)** list for the 2026-2027 school year. (Attachment #14)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of the **non-affiliated personnel**, effective July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. (Attachment #15)

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5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of **paraprofessionals** for the 2026-2027 school year. (Attachment #16)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of part-time **lunch aides** for the 2026-2027 school year. (Attachment #17)
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **Adrienne Ridley** for up to 10 hours/week of home instruction for **Student #3010885711**, at the rate of \$44/hour, effective immediately.
8. 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 #18)

Noah Gervasi	Substitute Custodian	\$19.12/hour
Edward Aponte	Substitute Custodian	\$19.12/hour

9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff for professional development preparations NTE 2 hours each, at a rate of \$56.73/hour:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Tori Tiscia | • Susan Goracy |
| • April Starling | • Lori Topel |
| • Ferdinando Melo | • Melanie Kandl |
| • Katherine Blanco | • Christina Borris |

10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of **Julia Chirls**, Special Education Teacher, effective July 1, 2026, and thank her for her time in the district. (Attachment #19)

XVI. Policy

The following motion was approved by roll call vote: **Policy #1-2**

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, for the first reading of the following policies:

P 0162	Notice of Board Meetings	Revised/Mandated
P 0162.01	Legal Notices	New/Mandated
P 2200	Curriculum	Revised/Mandated

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2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, for the second reading and adoption of the following policy:

P 3412	Placement on Guide Column	New/Recommended
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XVIII. Old Business - none

XIX. New Business - none

XX. Committee Reports - Mrs. Schiano reported that the Personnel/Curriculum Committee met yesterday. Mr. Hyman reported that the referendum committee met and are still finalizing priorities. The Berkeley Heights Committee is still awaiting attorneys to provide feedback. Mr. Goodwin said the Buildings & Grounds Committee met this morning and several times each month about facilities upgrades, custodial staffing, and municipal projects.

XXI. Public Participation - none.

XXII. Adjournment- Resolution (Attachment #1)

A motion was made by Dr. Guidici Pietro at 8:08 p.m., seconded by Mr. Goodwin to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote, 7 ayes - 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke Burik
Business Administrator/Board Secretary