

MOUNTAINSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

BEECHWOOD SCHOOL - 1497 WOODACRES DRIVE, MOUNTAINSIDE, NJ 07092
DEERFIELD SCHOOL - 302 CENTRAL AVENUE, MOUNTAINSIDE, NJ 07092

For agenda attachments available to the public, please contact the Mountainside Board of Education Office at
(908) 232-3232 or peruse same at the respective meeting.
Also, Mountainside Board of Education policies may be accessed via the district website.

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Mr. Bill Dillon	_____
Mr. Michael Goodwin	_____
Dr. Dana Guidici Pietro	_____
Mr. Jordan Hyman	_____
Mrs. Vivian Pupo	_____
Mrs. Candice Schiano	_____
Mrs. Lauren Worgan	_____

III. Executive Session - Resolution (Attachment #1)

Moved: _____ Seconded: _____
RC: Dillon _____ Goodwin _____ Guidici Pietro _____
Hyman _____ Pupo _____ Schiano _____ Worgan _____

❖ Legal/Personnel

IV. Close Executive Session and Reconvene Public Session

Moved: _____ Seconded: _____
RC: Dillon _____ Goodwin _____ Guidici Pietro _____
Hyman _____ Pupo _____ Schiano _____ Worgan _____

V. Flag Salute

VI. Approval of Minutes

Moved: _____ Seconded: _____
RC: Dillon _____ Goodwin _____ Guidici Pietro _____
Hyman _____ Pupo _____ Schiano _____ Worgan _____

- ❖ Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 15, 2026
- ❖ Minutes of the Executive Session of September 15, 2026

VII. Correspondence

VIII. Public Participation - Agenda Items Only

In accordance with Board Policy 0167, Public Participation in Board Meetings, in the event it appears the public comment portion of the meeting may exceed 30 minutes, the presiding officer may limit each statement made by a participant to three (3) minutes' duration.

IX. President's Report

X. Superintendent's Report

- ❖ Trailblazers Recognition
- ❖ State Testing Spring 2026 Results for NJSLA
- ❖ HIB Self-Assessment Grades
- ❖ Balance Project Presentation
- ❖ Week of Respect, and School Violence Awareness Week
- ❖ District Updates

XI. Business Administrator's Report

- ❖ Financials Report Update
- ❖ Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and M-1
- ❖ 2026-2027 Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklists
- ❖ Annual Tuition Rates

XII. Berkeley Heights Liaison Report

XIII. Administration

Moved: _____ Seconded: _____
RC: Dillon _____ Goodwin _____ Guidici Pietro _____
Hyman _____ Pupo _____ Schiano _____ Worgan _____

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2025-2026 New Jersey Department of Education School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act for Beechwood and Deerfield Schools. (Attachment #2)
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2026-2027 Nursing Services Plan. (Attachment #3)
3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the annual Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and M-1. (Attachment #4)
4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2026-2027 Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklist for Beechwood and Deerfield Schools. (Attachment #5)

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5. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the submission of the District Performance Review (DPR) for NJ Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) Statement of Assurance – School Year 2026-2027. (Attachment #6)
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Beechwood and Deerfield Schools September 2026 safety and security drill reports.
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Deerfield School Bus Evacuation Drill. (Attachment #7)

XIV. Budget and Finance

Moved: _____ Seconded: _____
RC: Dillon _____ Goodwin _____ Guidici Pietro _____
Hyman _____ Pupo _____ Schiano _____ Worgan _____

1. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the list of budget transfers for the month of September 2026. (Attachment #8)
2. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approve the payment of the bill list dated September 12, 2026, through October 8, 2026. (Attachment #9)
3. **WHEREAS**, the Board has received the Financial Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of September 2026, and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for the month of September 2026 ; and

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary, Bernadette Pinto, 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 September 2026:

RESOLVED THAT, the Board accepts the Treasurer Report for the month of August (*revised*) and September 2026 and the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary for September 2026 as submitted and certified (Attachment #10).

4. **BE IT RESOLVED** to approve, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the transfer of \$72,000 from account 12-000-400-721-000-001 Lease Purchase Agreements Principal to account 12-000-400-450-000-001 Construction Services to be used for HVAC in the Board office and Room 13 in Deerfield and health office coil in Deerfield.
5. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mountainside Borough Board of Education, SHBP/SHEBP Employer Location- 115500, hereby resolves to terminate its participation in the Program (Medical Plan, Prescription Drug Plan, and/or Dental Plan coverage) thereby canceling coverage provided by the SHBP and/or SEHBP (N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.25 et seq.) for all its active and retired employees.

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We shall notify all active employees of the date of their termination of coverage under the Program.

We understand that the New Jersey Division of Pensions & Benefits (NJDPB) will notify retired employees of the cancellation of their coverage.

We understand that all COBRA participants will be notified by the NJDPB and advised to contact our office concerning a possible alternative health, prescription drug, and dental insurance plan.

We understand that this resolution shall take effect the first of the month following a 60-day period beginning with the receipt of the resolution by the State Health Benefits Commission or School Employees' Health Benefits Commission.

6. **A RESOLUTION OF THE MOUNTAINSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION AUTHORIZING THE MOUNTAINSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO JOIN THE NJ SOLUTIONS JOINT HEALTH INSURANCE FUND.**

WHEREAS, a number of public entities in the State of New Jersey have joined together to form the NJ Solutions Joint Health Insurance Fund, hereafter referred to as the "Fund", as permitted by N.J.A.C. 11:15-3.1 et. seq., N.J.S.A. 17:1-8.1 et. seq., and N.J.S.A. 40A:10-36 et. seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Fund was approved to become operational by the Department of Banking and Insurance and the Department of Community Affairs (collectively, the "Departments") and has been operational since that date; and

WHEREAS, the statutes and regulations governing the creation and operation of a joint insurance fund in the State of New Jersey contain certain restrictions and safeguards in connection with the administration of the public interest entrusted to such a Fund; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of THE MOUNTAINSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION, hereinafter referred to as "Local Unit" has studied the feasibility of joining the Fund and has determined that membership in the Fund is in the best interest of the Local Unit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the governing body of the Local Unit hereby agrees and authorizes the following:

- i. Execution of the application for membership to the Fund, including any and all documents and/or certifications as may be necessary, in order for the Local Unit to complete the application process and join the Fund.
- ii. The Local Unit shall become a member of the Fund for an initial period outlined in the Local Unit's Indemnity and Trust Agreement, subject to the approval of the Fund Commissioners, which in no event shall exceed three (3) years as prescribed in N.J.A.C. 11:15-3.3(a).

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- iii. The Local Unit shall participate in the following type(s) of coverage(s) offered by the Fund: Health Insurance and/or Prescription Insurance and/or Dental Insurance and/or Medicare Advantage/Employer Group Waiver Program as defined pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17B:17-4, the Fund's Bylaws, and Plan of Risk Management.
- iv. Adoption and approval of the Fund's Bylaws, a true and correct copy of which is annexed hereto as Attachment A, which has been approved by the Departments.
- v. Execution of the Local Unit's Indemnity and Trust Agreement, a true and correct copy of which is annexed hereto as Attachment B, which has been approved by the Departments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governing body of the Local Unit certifies, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 11:15-3.3(a), that the Local Unit has never defaulted on claims under a self-insured plan and that it has not had its insurance canceled for nonpayment of premium for a period of at least two (2) years prior to this application.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governing body of the Local Unit is authorized and directed to execute the Indemnity and Trust Agreement and such other documents signifying membership in the Fund as required by the Fund's Bylaws, and to deliver these documents to the Fund's Executive Director with the express reservation that these documents shall become effective only upon on acceptance of the Fund's By-laws as prescribed in N.J.A.C. 11:15-3.3(a).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect upon its passage.

- 7. Move to approve an agreement for Joint Transportation Services between Morris-Union Jointure Commission and the Mountainside Board of Education for Transportation for the 2026 extended school year. (Attachment #11)
- 8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a contract with Viking Pest Control, to provide Integrated Pest Management services for the remainder of the 2026-2027 School Year for an amount not to exceed \$2,000. (Attachment #12)
- 9. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the cooperative agreement between the Mountainside Board of Education and Berkeley Heights for a middle school wrestling program. (Attachment #13)
- 10. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with Apex Investigations, to conduct residency investigations during the 2026-2027 school year, as needed, at a rate of \$80/hour. (Attachment #14)
- 11. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve non-resident annual tuition rates as follows:

Grade Level/Program	2025-2026 School Year	2026-2027 School Year
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Preschool - Kindergarten	\$15,191	\$17,887
Grades 1-5	\$15,824	\$17,366
Grades 6-8	\$15,991	\$18,314
Learning Language Disabled	\$39,723	\$32,146
Autism / Applied Behavior Analysis	n/a	\$51,458

12. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the updated Independent Contractors/Physicians/Agencies for the 26/27 school year as attached. (Attachment #15)
13. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with LearnWell to provide home instruction services for **Student #8978037849**, from 9/25/26-10/25/26, at a rate of \$69.50/hour, NTE 40 hours (10 hrs/wk) plus prep/admin work for a total of \$3,505.88.
14. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, an agreement with G2 Athletics, LLC for Sports Camp open to Beechwood students, at costs as outlined under Tier 6 usage fees in district Policy 7510. (Attachment #16)

Club	Dates	G2 Usage Fees
Winter Tennis Club (Gr. K-2)	Jan. 7th - Feb. 25th	\$440
Morning Sports and Fitness Club (Gr. K-2)	Jan. 7th - Mar. 25th	\$660

15. Move to approve in accordance with MBOE policy 6471, School District Travel, and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the travel, professional development requests, and related expenses itemized in (Attachment #17). 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. All reimbursements shall be made in accordance with state guidelines 18A:11-12.
16. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, special education placements and services as per (Attachment #18).
17. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizing the Mountainside Board of Education to retain special litigation counsel to investigate and pursue claims against social media companies as outlined in the attached resolution. (Attachment #18A)

XV. Personnel

Moved: _____ Seconded: _____
 RC: Dillon _____ Goodwin _____ Guidici Pietro _____

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Hyman _____ Pupo _____ Schiano _____ Worgan _____

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).

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of the following new hires for the 2026-2027 school year (Attachment #19):

Name	Loc.	Position	Salary/Step	Start	End
Amanda Figueroa	DF	Long Term Substitute ----- Leave Replacement (8th Gr. ELA)	\$190 per diem ----- Once ELA certified \$78,699 (prorated) Step MA 14	10/1/26	6/30/27
Irma Zelaya	DF	Paraprofessional	\$28.89/hour Step 1	10/14/26	6/30/27
Susanna Klippel	BW	Lunch aide	\$16.25/hour	10/14/26	6/30/27
Elysabeth Servance	DF	Lunch aide	\$16.25/hour	10/14/26	6/30/27

2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff for 2026-2027 School Year Stipend Positions, contingent upon student enrollment for those student activities subsidized in accordance with Board Policy 2436, Activity Participation Fee Program.

Staff Member	Position	Rate
Adrienne Ridley	National Honor Society Tutoring Advisor (Gr 3-8)	\$36/session <i>NTE 32 sessions</i>
Deb Posner	Volleyball Coach for extra Saturday invitational 10/10/26	\$36/hour <i>NTE 4 hours</i>

3. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the addition of the following to the 2026-2027 Substitute List, pending paperwork and successful criminal background check. (Attachment #20)

Substitute's Name	Certification	Rate
Ayden Negron	Sub Cert. (pending)	\$115/day
Susanna Klippel	Sub Cert (pending)	\$115/day
Cheryl Nigro	Sub Cert	\$115/day

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Michael Rox	Teaching Cert	\$125/day
Quinn Williams	Sub Custodian	\$19.50/hour
Katrina Hodges	Sub Custodian	\$19.50/hour
Tae'Jean Wilson	Sub Custodian	\$19.50/hour

4. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the request from **Lisa Arroyo**, to take intermittent Family Leave, beginning October 8, 2026, during which time she will be paid utilizing her sick days as needed based on the following guidelines:

For an employee who works 2 days per week, intermittent Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) is calculated proportionally based on their normal weekly hours or scheduled workdays, providing a total bank of 24 normal working days (12 workweeks multiplied by 2 days) over a 12-month period. (Attachment #21)

5. 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:
- **Kai Gordon**
 - **Josephine Kwan**
6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following library volunteers for the 26/27 school year: **Lisa Massimo**
7. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **Alexander Vega** to complete 100 hours of Clinical I and II Field Experience in Health/Physical Education through Kean University at Deerfield School one (1) day a week during the 2026-2027 school year.
8. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **Alicia Ferrullo**, to complete 8 hours of Practicum/Field Experience, for Course: ELM-526 Literacy Intervention and Remediation, at Deerfield School, for her requirements at Grand Canyon University.
9. Move to *rescind* upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, this mentorship previously approved on 9/15/26, as Mr. Scanzillo completed his requirement in a prior district.

Staff Member	Assignment	Fee Amount
Lori Topel	Joseph Scanzillo (CEAS - 30 weeks)	\$550

XVI. Curriculum

Moved: _____ Seconded: _____
 RC: Dillon _____ Goodwin _____ Guidici Pietro _____
 Hyman _____ Pupo _____ Schiano _____ Worgan _____

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1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, field trips as detailed to the Board of Education.
2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following curricular documents for Mountainside Schools:

Subject Area	Grade Levels
Mathematics	Grade 1, 3, 4
Reading & Foundational Literacy (Word Study)	Grades K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Grades K-3
Writing	Grade K, 1, 2, 3

XVII. Policy

Moved: _____ Seconded: _____
RC: Dillon _____ Goodwin _____ Guidici Pietro _____
Hyman _____ Pupo _____ Schiano _____ Worgan _____

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following bylaws/policies/regulations for the first reading:

R 6115.01	Federal Award/Funds Internal Controls - Allowability of Costs	Revised/Mandated
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2. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following policies for the second reading and adoption:

P 6112	Reimbursement of Federal and Other Grant Expenditures	Revised/Mandated
P 6115.02	Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls - Mandatory Disclosures	Revised/Mandated
P 6311	Contracts for Goods and Services Funded by Federal Grants	Revised/Mandated

XVIII. Old Business

XIX. New Business

XX. Committee Reports

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XXI. Public Participation

XXII. Adjournment

Moved: _____ Seconded: _____
RC: Dillon _____ Goodwin _____ Guidici Pietro _____
Hyman _____ Pupo _____ Schiano _____ Worgan _____