Mountain Lakes School District
96 Powerville Road, Suite 1
Mountain Lakes, New Jersey 07046
Phone: 973-334-8280 Fax: 973-334-2316
www.mlschools.org

NOTICE

The Special Meeting of the Mountain Lakes Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, November 24, 2026 at 8:45 am 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 *(Vice President)*		
Dr. Sheth		
Dr. Silva McIntyre		
Mrs. Barkauskas *(President)*		

Also present: Dr. Brad Siegel, Mr. Lisa, Dr. Ciresi

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.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. FINANCE

1. Approval of SEHBP Health Insurance - Notice of Cancellation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education authorizes the Business Administrator to notify SEHBP that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education will terminate participation in the health plans, effective January 31, 2027, at 11:59 pm, as recommended by the Superintendent.

2. Resolution to Join Metropolitan Health Insurance Fund

WHEREAS, a number of public entities in the State of New Jersey have joined together to form the METROPOLITAN HEALTH INSURANCE FUND, hereafter referred to as "FUND", as permitted by N.J.S.A. 11:15-3, 17:1-8.1, and 40A:10-36 et seq., and;

WHEREAS, the FUND was approved to become operational by the Departments of Insurance and Community Affairs and has been operational since that date, and;

WHEREAS, the statutes and regulations governing the creation and operation of a joint insurance fund contain certain elaborate restrictions and safeguards concerning the safe and efficient administration of the public interest entrusted to such a FUND;

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Mountain Lakes Board of Education, hereinafter referred to as “LOCAL UNIT,” 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 as follows:

i. Become a member of the FUND for the period outlined in the LOCAL UNIT's Indemnity and Trust Agreements.

ii. Will participate in the following type (s) of coverage (s):

a) Health Insurance as defined pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17B:17-4, the FUND's Bylaws, and Plan of Risk Management.

iii. Adopts and approves the FUND's Bylaws.

iv. Execute an application for membership and any accompanying certifications.

v. Commit to the four principles of the FUND, which are:

a) A long-term philosophy on rates.

b) A willingness to work with bargaining units to achieve plan design changes.

c) Professional management with stability and commitment.

d) Rating structure based on actuarial numbers.

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:

i. Approval of the LOCAL UNIT by the FUND.
ii. Receipt from the LOCAL UNIT of a Resolution accepting assessment.
iii. Approval by the New Jersey Department of Insurance and Department of Community Affairs, as recommended by the Superintendent.

3. Resolution to Appoint Fund Commissioners
BE IT RESOLVED by the Mountain Lakes Board of Education that Keith Lisa be and is hereby appointed as Fund Commissioner to the Metropolitan Health Insurance Fund, effective February 1, 2027, to represent the Mountain Lakes Board of Education and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Brad Siegel be and is appointed as Alternate Fund Commissioner to the Metropolitan Health Insurance Fund, effective February 1, 2027, as recommended by the Superintendent.

4. Supplemental Professional Services - Parette Somjen Architects, LLC
WHEREAS, the District requires professional architectural services related to the investigation, assessment, and remediation of building conditions at Lake Drive School; and

WHEREAS, Parette Somjen Architects, LLC has proposed providing these services at a cost of $37,450;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approves the professional services agreement with Parette Somjen Architects, LLC in an amount not to exceed $37,450, and authorizes the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to execute the agreement and take necessary actions to implement the services, as recommended by the Superintendent.

B. PERSONNEL

5. Additional Compensation *Δ*
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
IVY H/WW/BC							
1.	Murphy, Allison	Appoint	Data Analysis Leader	WW	$2,340	11/17/26	6/30/27

6. Field Trips *Δ*
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain Lakes Board of Education approve the following field trips, as recommended by the Superintendent:

	School	Destination	Reason	Date
DISTRICT				
1.	MLHS	New York, NY	Columbia University Quiz Bowl	12/2026
IVY H/WW/BC				
2.	WW	Morristown, NJ	NJCGTP STEM/STEAM Adventures	12/2026

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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