

**Mountain View School District**  
**“A Community’s Commitment to Excellence”**  
**Board of Education Public Meeting**  
**Monday, January 13, 2025**  
**MINUTES**

**1.1 Call to Order**

The regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Education on January 13, 2025 was held in the James W. Zick Board Room and was called to order at 7:11 PM by Mr. Jason Richmond, President.

**1.2 Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance**

**1.3 Roll Call – Board Members Present:**

Mr. Jason Richmond, President; Mr. Kenneth Decker, First Vice President; Mr. Derek O’Dell (via phone); Mr. Tracy Flynn; Mr. Michael Molenko; Ms. Louise Cator, Mr. Michael Talabiska.

Absent: Mr. Michael Barhite, Second Vice President; Mr. Danny Very.

**Administration Present:**

Dr. Mike Elia, Superintendent; Mr. Thomas Witiak, Business Manager; Mrs. Erica Loftus, Special Services Director; Mr. Patrick McGarry, Elementary School Principal; Mr. Andrew Snyder, Director of Curriculum; Attorney Joseph Gaughan, Solicitor.

Absent: Dr. Mark Lemoncelli, High School Principal;

**1.4. Pride in Mountain View**

- No presentations

**1.5. Approve the Board Minutes**

The motion is made by Mr. Talabiska, second by Mr. Flynn, to approve the minutes dated December 2, 2024, as presented.

Motion 143 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

**1.6. Treasurer’s Report – Michael Talabiska, Treasurer**

- Mr. Talabiska presented the November and December Treasurer’s Reports.

**1.7. First Hearing of Visitors**

You may speak about anything on the agenda. Please identify yourself by name and address all comments to the Board as a whole. You will be allowed two (2) minutes for your comments; five (5) minutes if prior written notification was made. Comments

relative to private student matters or personnel issues should be directed to the appropriate school authority outside of this meeting. The presiding officer reserves the right to interrupt or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

- None

**2. Finance Committee: Michael Barhite, Chairperson**

Committee Members: Michael Molenko, Derek O'Dell

2.1. Approve January Bill List

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve the list of bills for January 13, 2025 for the General Fund in the amount of \$994,279.22 and the Cafeteria Fund in the amount of \$86,953.07 totaling \$1,081,232.29, as presented.

Motion 144 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

2.2. Approve Exonerations for Real Estate, Per Capita and Occupation Taxes

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve exonerations for 2024 real estate, 2024 per capita taxes and 2024 occupation taxes as submitted by the Susquehanna County Courthouse and tax collectors, as presented.

Motion 145 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

2.3. Approve Tax Index

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, that the Mountain View School District will not raise 2025-2026 taxes above its Act 1 index of 4.0%.

Motion 146 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

**3. Personnel Committee: Michael Molenko, Chairperson**

Committee Members: Louise Cator, Derek O'Dell

3.1. Approve Coaching Positions

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve the following supplemental salary coaching positions:

- A. JH Baseball Assistant Coach, William Traver, \$1,512.50
- B. JH Softball Assistant Coach, Lacie Jagger, \$1,512.50
- C. Softball Varsity Head Coach, Bailey White, \$4,004.00

Motion 147 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

### 3.2. Accept Coach Resignation

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to accept the letter of resignation from the following coach:

- A. Ray Mitchell, Track and Field Assistant Coach, effective January 6, 2025
- B. Tosha Shay, Boys Volleyball Assistant Coach, effective December 11, 2024

Motion 148 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

### 3.3. Approve Substitute Teacher

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve the following substitute:

- A. Slone Chandler, Susquehanna, to the Substitute Teacher List

Motion 149 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

### 3.4. Authorize Posting and Advertising

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve an anticipated 7-12 school counseling position (day-to-day substitute) starting March 3, 2025.

Motion 150 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

### 3.5. Authorize Posting and Advertising

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to authorize posting and advertising for the following position:

- A. Track and Field Assistant Coach
- B. Boys Volleyball Assistant Coach

Motion 151 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

### 3.6. Approve Supplemental Salaries

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve the following supplemental salaries:

- A. Jamie Esgro, Grade Level Leader – 4<sup>th</sup> grade
- B. JoAnn Voda, 20 Hour Mentor
- C. Mason Stiver, Musical Play Director Assistant

Motion 152 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

3.7. Approve Sabbatical Leave

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve a sabbatical leave for the second semester of the 2024 -2025 school year for health restoration for Katherine Holzman, as presented.

Motion 153 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

3.8. Approve Sabbatical Leave

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve a sabbatical leave for the second semester of the 2024 -2025 school year for health restoration for Jenny Riley, as presented.

Motion 154 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

3.9. Approve 223 Clerical

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to appoint Holly Estabrook, New Milford, as a 223 Clerical at a starting rate of \$12.70 per hour and benefits per MVESPA Agreement, start date pending paperwork.

Motion 155 Carried: 6 Yes (Mr. Richmond, Mr. Decker, Mr. Talabiska, Mr. Molenko, Ms. Cator, Mr. O'Dell), 1 Abstain (Mr. Flynn), 2 Absent (Mr. Very, Mr. Barhite)

3.10. Approve 90-day Long Term Substitute

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve Bridget Sherring as a 90-day long term substitute, at a prorated salary of \$53,684.00, Step 1, Bachelors Column of the 2024-2025 schedule, Effective January 24, 2025 (91st day), and benefits according to contract as a result of serving in the same Elementary Classroom position for more than 90 consecutive days.

Motion 156 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

**4. Policy Committee: Michael Talabiska Chairperson**

Committee Members: Danny Very, Tracy Flynn

**5. Education Committee: Michael Talabiska, Chairperson**

Committee Members: Tracy Flynn, Louise Cator

5.1. Approve Field Trip Requests

The motion is made by Mr. Talabiska, second by Ms. Cator, to approve the following field trip requests:

- A. Samantha Hayden, 30 Students, January 29, 2025, SCCTC 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Tour, SCCTC Building, (Travel: \$138.57; Total: \$138.57).
- B. Molly Birozak, 24 students, December 16-17, 2024, Forest City, Montrose, South Montrose, Harford & Susquehanna (Travel: \$467.46; Substitute: \$230.00 Total: \$697.46).
- C. Mason Stiver, 2-3 Students, January 31 & February 1, 2025, Maywood Sr. Wind Band Celebration, Scranton, PA (Travel: \$80.40, Registration: \$240.00, Substitute: \$115.00; Total: \$435.40).
- D. Jamie Bottger, 1 student, February 5 -7, 2025, PMEA District 9 Chorus, Tunkhannock, PA (Travel: \$34.84, Registration: \$200.00, Substitute: \$230.00; Total: \$464.84).
- E. Kelly Richmond & Kerra Spindler, 3-5 students, January 31, 2025, February 28, 2025, March 31, 2025, April 30, 2025, May 23, 2025, Robs Market, Hallstead, PA (Travel: \$134.00; Total: \$134.00).
- F. Karen Zaums, 20 students, March 28, 2025 Region H Regional Conference PASC, Lakeland High School (no cost to district, trip paid for by MVSGA).
- G. Charlene Martens, 4 students, January 28, 2025, Scholastic Scrimmage, Edwardsville, PA (Travel: \$67.00, Substitute: \$115.00; Total: \$182.00).
- H. Andrea Aten, 10 students, March 7, 2025, 2025 PASC Region G Conference, Wellsboro, PA ( Registration: \$100.00, Substitute: \$115.00; Total: \$215.00).
- I. Glen Mackey, 9 students, March 7, 2025, Lockheed Martin 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Engineers Day, Owego, NY (Travel \$72.36, Substitute: \$115.00; Total: \$187.36).

Motion 157 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

## 5.2. Approve Conference Requests

The motion is made by Mr. Talabiska, second by Ms. Cator, to approve the following conference requests:

- A. Sarah Evans, January 13, 2025, Back to Basics: Communication Supports and Visuals, NEIU 19 (Substitute: \$115.00; Total: \$115.00).
- B. Erica Loftus, February 5-7, 2025, PDE – Making a Difference, Hershey, PA (Travel: \$175.54, Lodging: \$341.88, Registration: \$295.00; Total: \$906.90).
- C. Mason Stiver, April 10 - 12, 2025, PMEA All State Conference, Pocono Manor, PA (Travel: \$80.40, Lodging: \$359.70, Registration: \$180.00, Substitute: \$230.00, Meals: \$120.00; Total: \$970.10).
- D. Matt Georgetti, February 10 - 12, 2025, PETE+C, Hershey, PA (Travel: \$112.56, Lodging: \$309.48, Registration: \$325.00; Total: \$747.04).

Motion 158 Carried: 7 Yes, 2 Absent

- 6. Building and Site Committee: Danny Very, Chairperson**  
Committee Members: Michael Barhite, Kenneth Decker

Mr. Taylor's Report

- 7. Transportation Committee: Kenny Decker, Chairperson**  
Committee Members: Michael Barhite, Danny Very

- 8. Labor Relations Committee: Jason Richmond, Chairperson**  
MVEA Committee Members: Michael Talabiska, Danny Very, Kenneth Decker  
MVESPA Committee Members: Derek O'Dell, Michael Talabiska, Danny Very

**9. Administration**

9.1. Principals' Comments

Elementary Principal - Mr. Patrick McGarry

- Mr. McGarry thinks the new paint in the gym looks great. A few staffing changes have taken place. The Glow Party Dance is coming up. He thanked Lori Cobb for her years of service.

High School Principal - Dr. Mark Lemoncelli

- Absent.

9.2. Director of Special Services - Mrs. Erica Loftus

- Mrs. Loftus said the unified bocce season has started. It has been a great program thus far.

9.3. Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Federal Programs - Mr. Andrew Snyder

- Mr. Snyder recently attended an Artificial Intelligence (AI) conference. He is now focusing on bringing the best AI tools to teachers.

9.4. Business Manager – Mr. Thomas Witiak

- Mr. Witiak wished the school board happy school board appreciation month.

9.5. Superintendent - Dr. Michael Elia

- Dr. Elia thanked the school board for all of their hard work.

**10. Closing**

10.1. New Business from Board Members

- None.

10.2. Second Hearing of Visitors

You may address any topic. Please identify yourself by name and address all comments to the Board as a whole. You will be allowed two (2) minutes for your comments; five (5) minutes if prior written notification was made. Comments relative to private student matters or personnel issues should be directed to the appropriate school authority outside of this meeting. The presiding officer reserves the right to interrupt or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

- Ashley Kilmer voiced concerns about the facilities and fundraising.

10.3. Executive Session – Announcement of executive sessions held and/or scheduled.

**HELD:**

- Monday, January 13, 2025 - 6:15pm – 7:00 pm for Personnel & Contracts

**SCHEDULED:**

- Monday, February 3, 2025 before the public meeting

**11. Adjourn**

The motion was made by Mr. Talabiska, second by Mr. O'Dell, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Witiak