

**Mountain View School District**  
**“A Community’s Commitment to Excellence”**  
**Board of Education Public Meeting**  
**Monday, March 3, 2025**  
**MINUTES**

**1.1 Call to Order**

The regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Education on March 3, 2025 was held in the James W. Zick Board Room and was called to order at 7:22 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. Michael Barhite, Second Vice President; Mr. Danny Very; Mr. Michael Molenko; Ms. Louise Cator, Mr. Michael Talabiska; Mr. Tracy Flynn.

Absent: Mr. Derek O’Dell.

**Administration Present:**

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

Absent: Dr. Mark Lemoncelli, High School Principal; Mr. Andrew Snyder, Director of Curriculum.

**1.4. Pride in Mountain View:**

Brooklyn Anderson SGA Representative

- Brooklyn presented the MVSGA Liaison Report.

**1.5. Approve the Board Minutes**

The motion is made by Mr. Talabiska, second by Ms. Cator, to approve the minutes dated February 3, 2025 and February 17, 2025, as presented.

Motion 176 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

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

- Mr. Talabiska presented the Treasurer’s Report.

**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 March Bill List

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Very, to approve the list of bills for February 3, 2025 for the General Fund in the amount of \$1,127,854.76 and the Cafeteria Fund in the amount of \$58,141.29 totaling \$1,185,986.05, as presented.

Motion 177 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

### 2.2. Approve Service Agreement with the Meadows Psychiatric Center

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Very, to approve a Service Agreement between the Mountain View School District and the Meadows Psychiatric Center, as presented.

Motion 178 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

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

Committee Members: Louise Cator, Derek O'Dell

### 3.1. Accept Coach Resignation

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

- A. Anthony Gaynor, Cross Country Assistant Coach, effective November 13, 2024.

Motion 179 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

### 3.2. Accept Resignation

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. Talabiska, to accept the letter of resignation for Andrew Snyder for his Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Federal Programs effective March 14, 2025, as presented.

Motion 180 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

3.3. Authorize Posting and Advertising

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

A. Cross Country Assistant Coach

Motion 181 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

3.4. Authorize Posting and Advertising

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. Talabiska, to authorize posting and advertising for a Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Federal Programs with benefits per the Act 93 Agreement.

Motion 182 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

3.5. Approve Substitute Teacher

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

A. Brendan Smith, Scranton, to the Substitute Teacher List, pending paperwork

Motion 183 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

3.6. Appoint Custodian Position

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. Talabiska, to appoint Cynthia Somers as a Custodian at a starting rate of \$12.70 per hour and benefits per MVESPA Agreement, with a start date of March 4, 2025.

Motion 184 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

3.7. Approve Superintendent Contract

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. Talabiska, to approve the Superintendent contract from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030, as presented.

Motion 185 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

3.8. Approve Long Term Substitute

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. Talabiska, to approve Joanna Burchell as a long-term substitute for having served more than 30 consecutive days as an Elementary Teacher with rate of \$165.00 per day effective February 14, 2025.

Motion 186 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

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

Committee Members: Danny Very, Tracy Flynn

4.1. First Reading of the Following Policies:

Policy 103 Vol IV 2020 – Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students

Policy 104 Vol IV 2020 – Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff

- Mr. Talabiska read the policies listed above.

**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. Kevin Reuss and 1 additional faculty member, 25 Students, May 6, 2025, Teen Symposium on the Holocaust, Scranton, PA, (Travel: \$201.40, Substitute: \$230.00; Total: \$506.40).
- B. Kelly Richmond, Kerra Spindler, Danielle Scott, Cheryl Taylor, 12 students, March 13, 2025, Coffee Inclusive, Lunch & Groceries, Pittston, PA (Travel: \$232.05; Total: \$232.05).
- C. Mason Stiver, Diana Lombardi, 2 students, March 4, 2025, WVIA Artist of the Week Filming, Nanticoke, PA (Travel: \$80.00, Substitute: \$115.00; Total: \$195.00).
- D. Kathy McHenry, 1 student, February 15, 2025, PA FBLA State Officer Candidate Interview, Hershey, PA (no cost).
- E. Kathy McHenry, Mason Stiver, 40 students, March 21, 2025, FBLA Night with the Penguins/JH Band Performance, Wilkes Barre, PA (Travel: \$378.71, Tickets/Meals: \$1,040.00; Total Cost District: \$378.71; Total: \$1,418.71).
- F. Mason Stiver, 6 students, March 3-5, 2025, PMEA District Jazz & Jazzfest, Forest City, PA (Travel: \$360.00, Registration: \$400.00, Substitute \$230.00; Total: \$990.00).
- G. Molly Love-Birosak, Jamie Bottger, 12 students, April 1, 2025, Chorus Fest, Honesdale, PA (Travel: \$226.68, Registration: \$660.00, Substitute \$230.00; Total: \$1,141.68).

- H. Jennifer Davis, 9 students, April 26, 2025, NEPA Girls STEM Competition, Archbald, PA (Other: \$227.50; Total: \$227.50).
- I. Andrea Aten, 2 students, April 4, 2025, PASC Region F Conference, Lebanon, PA (Substitute: \$115.00; Total: \$115.00).
- J. Mason Stiver, 15 students, May 9, 2025, PMEA District 9 Bandfest, Tunkhannock, PA (Travel: \$197.00, Registration: \$300.00, Substitute: \$115.00; Total: \$612.00).
- K. Jamie Bottger, 18 students, March 4, 2025, PMEA District 9 Jazz Fest, Forest City HS (Travel: \$92.62, Registration: \$400.00, Substitute: \$115.00; Total: \$607.62).

Motion 187 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

### 5.2. Approve Conference Requests

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

- A. Andrea Aten, May 30 – June 7, 2025, 2025 AP Reading, Salt Lake City, UT (Substitute: \$690.00; Total: \$690.00).
- B. Patricia Button, May 5-7, 2025, Tech Talk Live, Lancaster, PA (Travel: \$265.00, Lodging: \$510.00, Registration: \$350.00, Meals: \$175.00; Total: \$1,300.00).
- C. Storm Talluto, January 30, 2025, BLS Provider Training course, Scranton, PA (Registration: \$243.67; Total: \$243.67).
- D. Katie Naegele, March 10, 2025, AIM's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium, Virtual (Substitute: \$115.00; Total: \$115.00).
- E. Karen Zaums, April 8, 2025, School-Based SLPS, Virtual (Registration: \$295.00; Total: \$295.00).

Motion 188 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

### 5.3. Approve Homebound

The motion is made by Mr. Talabiska, second by Ms. Cator, to approve Homebound for Student #27128 beginning January 12, 2025.

Motion 189 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

### 5.4. Approve 2025-2026 District Calendar

The motion is made by Mr. Talabiska, second by Ms. Cator, to approve the 2025 - 2026 District Calendar as presented.

Motion 190 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

**6. Building and Site Committee: Danny Very, Chairperson**

Committee Members: Michael Barhite, Kenneth Decker

Mr. Taylor's Report

- Mr. Taylor mentioned that over the weekend, the fire suppression system on the wood boiler was triggered because of a faulty sensor. The tractor should be repaired and returned soon.

**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 said that this is Kid's Heart Challenge Week. The ES will watch the play on Friday. The student vs. faculty basketball game is on Friday.

High School Principal - Dr. Mark Lemoncelli

- Absent

9.2. Director of Special Services - Mrs. Erica Loftus

- Mrs. Loftus is planning for ESY. MV will be hosting the Life Skills Prom again this year.

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

- Absent

9.4. Business Manager – Mr. Thomas Witiak

- Absent

9.5. Superintendent - Dr. Michael Elia

- Dr. Elia thanked the board for their support over the past 5 years. He hopes to keep moving forward over the next 5 years. He thanked Mr. Snyder for his service.

**10. Closing**

10.1. New Business from Board Members

- Mr. Richmond wished Mr. Snyder good luck in his new role.

## 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.

- Tenielle Hobart asked about shuttle busses, the PTO, and the sporting complex.

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

### **HELD:**

- Monday, March 3, 2025 - 6:00pm – 7:20 pm for Personnel, Contracts, Legal Concerns

### **SCHEDULED:**

- Monday, March 3, 2025 after the public meeting
- Monday, April 7, 2025 before the public meeting

## 11. Adjourn

The motion was made by Mr. Talabiska, second by Mr. Very, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Witiak