

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

**1.1 Call to Order**

The regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Education on February 3, 2025 was held in the James W. Zick Board Room and was called to order at 7:15 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. Derek O’Dell; Mr. Michael Molenko; Ms. Louise Cator, Mr. Michael Talabiska.

Absent: Mr. Tracy Flynn.

**Administration Present:**

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

Absent: Dr. Mike Elia, Superintendent; Mr. Andrew Snyder, Director of Curriculum.

**1.4. Pride in Mountain View:**

- Kayleigh Barhite 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 January 13, 2025, as presented.

Motion 159 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

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

- Mr. Talabiska presented the January 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.

- Ted Brewster asked clarifying questions about the agenda.

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

Committee Members: Michael Molenko, Derek O'Dell

### 2.1. Approve February Bill List

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Talabiska, to approve the list of bills for February 3, 2025 for the General Fund in the amount of \$1,184,278.35 and the Cafeteria Fund in the amount of \$12,908.26 totaling \$1,197,186.61, as presented.

Motion 160 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

### 2.2. Approve Quarterly Reports

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Talabiska, to approve the following quarterly reports dated December 31, 2024 as presented and file for audit:

1. High School Activities Account
2. High School Scholarship Account
3. Elementary School Activities Account

Motion 161 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

### 2.3. Approve Tax Collector Compensation

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Talabiska, to approve the following tax collector compensation agreement for January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2029:

- Real Estate - \$2.50 per bill sent out; \$5.00 per bill collected (including first installment #1) \$2.00 per installment payment collected #2 and #3; \$2.00 per uncollected bill.
- Occupation/Per Capita – 5% commission rate on collected bills; \$1.00 per uncollected bill.
- A tax collector will be compensated a minimum of \$2,000.00 per fiscal year.
- Tax collector will mail out initial tax bills.

Motion 162 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

### 2.4. Approve Transfer of Funds

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Talabiska, to authorize transfer of funds from General Fund Bank Account to Athletic Fund Bank Account in the amount of \$6,000.00.

Motion 163 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

#### 2.5. Approve NEIU Budget

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Talabiska, to approve the 2025-2026 NEIU General Operating Budget, as presented.

Motion 164 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

#### 2.6. Approve Service Agreement with Luzerne Intermediate Unit

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Talabiska, to approve a Service Agreement between the Mountain View School District and the Luzerne Intermediate Unit, as presented.

Motion 165 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 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. Varsity Softball Assistant Coach, Samantha Owens, \$3,344.00

B. Boys Volleyball Assistant Coach, Bryan Owens, \$3,344.00

Motion 166 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 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 coaches:

James Olecki, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade Basketball Coach, effective January 10, 2025.

Motion 167 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

#### 3.3. 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. 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade Basketball Coach

Motion 168 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

#### 3.4. Approve Substitute Teacher

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

- A. Lia Heath, Susquehanna, to the Substitute Teacher List, pending paperwork

Motion 169 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

#### 3.5. Approve K-12 Special Education Teacher Position

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to appoint Stacy Decker, Clifford, PA as a Special Education Teacher, at Step 1, Column 1, with a salary of \$53,684.00 and benefits according to the MVEA Agreement, with a start date pending paperwork.

Motion 170 Carried: 7 Yes (Mr. Richmond, Mr. Barhite, Mr. Talabiska, Mr. Very, Ms. Cator, Mr. O'Dell, Mr. Molenko), 1 Abstain (Mr. Decker), 1 Absent (Mr. Flynn)

#### 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. Kathy McHenry Rebekah Ihlefeldt, Nurse, 30 Students, April 6-9, 2025, FBLA State Leadership Conference, Hershey, PA, (Travel: \$1886.40; Substitute: \$690.00; Lodging: \$2458.00, Registration: \$3,675.00; Total: \$12,412.65).
- B. Glen Mackey, 7 students, April 11, 2025, What's Cool about Engineering Awards, Towanda, PA (Travel: \$66.00, Substitute: \$115.00; Total: \$181.00).

- C. Sheri Ransom & Brion Stone, 4-6 students, April 3 & May 2, 2025, Trout Stocking, East Branch of Tunkhannock Creek, PA (Travel: \$49.00; Total: \$49.00).
- D. Sheri Ransom, Brion Stone & Dave Breese, 4-6 students, April 8 & May 9, 2025, Fishing, East Branch of Tunkhannock Creek, PA (Travel: \$49.00; Total: \$49.00).

Motion 171 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. Jessica Trichilo & Terri Kelsey, March 17 -18, 2025, Open Sci Ed 2 Day Beginner Training, NEIU 19 (Transportation: \$67.20, Substitute: \$460.00; Total: \$527.20).

Motion 172 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

## 5.3. Approve High School Program of Studies

The motion is made by Mr. Talabiska, second by Ms. Cator, to approve the 2025-2026 High School Program of Studies as presented:

Motion 173 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 stated that the hydraulic motor in the wood-boiler seized. A new motor has been ordered and will be installed this week.

## 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 congratulated Stacey Decker. Friday is the 100<sup>th</sup> Day. Parent-Teacher conferences are on Thursday and Friday, weather permitting. There will be a dance on Friday in the gym.

High School Principal - Dr. Mark Lemoncelli

- Dr. Lemoncelli wished Stacey Decker good luck. The HS started a student-mentor grouping. 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will be paired with sophomores and juniors. The recent district band recital was fabulous.

9.2. Director of Special Services - Mrs. Erica Loftus

- Mrs. Loftus congratulated Stacy Decker. She thanked Dane Barhite for his time as a special education teacher. The bocce season was successful.

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

- Absent

9.4. Business Manager – Mr. Thomas Witiak

- Mr. Witiak congratulated Stacy Decker and hoped to takes the coffee cart to the next level.

9.5. Superintendent - Dr. Michael Elia

- Absent

## 10. Closing

10.1. New Business from Board Members

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.

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

**HELD:**

- Monday, February 3, 2025 - 6:00 pm - 7:05p m for Personnel & Contracts

**SCHEDULED:**

- Monday, March 3, 2025 before the public meeting

## 11. Adjourn

The motion was made by Mr. Talabiska, second by Mr. Very, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Witiak