

Mountain View School District
“A Community’s Commitment to Excellence”
Board of Education Public Meeting

Monday, March 18, 2024
MINUTES

1.1 Call to Order

The regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Education on March 18, 2024 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. Derek O’Dell; Ms. Louise Cator; Mr. Tracy Flynn; Mr. Danny Very; Mr. Michael Molenko.

Absent: Mr. Michael Talabiska.

Administration Present:

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

Absent: Dr. Mark Lemoncelli, High School Principal.

1.4. Pride in Mountain View:

- Penny Ziegler presented MVSGA Liaison minutes.

1.5. Budget Presentations

- Technology – Patty Button
Mrs. Button presented the Technology budget in the amount of \$466,137.71.
- Maintenance – Bob Taylor
Mr. Taylor presented the Maintenance budget in the amount of \$1,038,300.00.
- Curriculum – Andrew Snyder
Mr. Snyder presented the Curriculum budget.

1.6. Approve the Board Minutes

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve the minutes dated March 4, 2024, as presented.

Motion Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

1.7. Treasurer's Report – Michael Talabiska, Treasurer

- Mr. Witiak presented the Treasurer's Report.

1.8. 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 March Bill List

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve the list of bills for March 18, 2024 for the General Fund in the amount of \$517,210.17 and for the Cafeteria in the amount of \$62,430.23 totaling \$ 579,640.40, as presented.

Motion Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

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

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, 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 Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

2.3. Approve Service Agreement with East Stroudsburg University

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve a Services Agreement between the Mountain View School District and East Stroudsburg University, as presented.

Motion Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

2.4. Approve Transfer of Funds

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. O'Dell, to authorize transfer of funds from General Fund Bank Account to Athletic Fund Bank Account in the amount of \$4,500.00.

Motion Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

2.5. Approve Agreement with Berkheimer

The motion is made by Mr. Barhite, second by Mr. Flynn, to appoint Tom Witiak, Business Manager, as the liaison between Mountain View School District and Berkheimer.

Motion Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

3. Personnel Committee: Michael Molenko, Chairperson

Committee Members: Louise Cator, Derek O'Dell

3.1. Corrected Accept Letter of Resignation

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. Flynn, to correct the motion verbiage of Donna Jacoby's retirement to read as follows: accept the letter of resignation, from Donna Jacoby from her paraprofessional position, due to retirement, effective the last day of the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

3.2. Motion to Approve Scorer

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. Flynn, to approve Beth Ann Masters as Scorer.

Motion Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

3.3. Accept Letter of Resignation for Retirement

The motion is made by Mr. Molenko, second by Mr. O'Dell, to accept the letter of resignation, for retirement purposes, from Laurie Barlow from her teaching position, effective the last school day of the 2023-2024 school year, as presented.

Motion 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 121- Field Trips
Policy 907- School Visitors
Policy 916- Volunteers

- Mr. Richmond read Policy 121- Field Trips, Policy 907- School Visitors, Policy 916- Volunteers.

5. Education Committee: Michael Talabiska, Chairperson

Committee Members: Tracy Flynn, Louise Cator

5.1. Approve Conference Requests

The motion is made by Mr. Flynn, second by Mr. Very, to approve the following conference requests:

- A. Sheri Ransom, Tuesday, April 9, 2024, Tact 2 Trainer Recert, Archbald, PA (Travel \$32.16, Registration \$250.00; Total \$282.16)

Motion Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

5.2. Approve Field Trip Requests

The motion is made by Mr. Flynn, second by Mr. Very, to approve the following conference requests:

- A. Mason Stiver, 30 students, Julie Harvatine, and Molly Birozak, Thursday, May 9, 2024, Railrider's National Anthem, PNC Field (Transportation \$226.60)
- B. Diana Lombardi, Sherri Ransom, and 12 students, Friday, April 26, 2024, Plein Air Paining, Brown Hills Farm, Tunkhannock (Substitute \$110.00)
- C. Jamie Bottger, Molly Birozak and 4 students, PMEA District 9 Chorus Fest, Honesdale High School (Transportation \$118.31, Registration \$213.50, Substitutes \$110.00; Total \$441.81)
- D. Sheri Ransom, Brion Stone and 6-8 students, Wednesday, April 3, 2024, Stocking Trout, Route 92 (Transportation \$25.45)
- E. Sheri Ransom, Brion Stone, Wednesday, April 10, 2024, Fishing, East Branch of Tunkhannock (Transportation \$46.90)
- F. Jamie Bottger, Mason Stiver, and 4 students, Thursday and Friday, April 11-12, 2024, PMEA District 9 Vocal Jazz Fest, Montrose HS (Transportation \$29.75, Registration \$170.00, Substitute \$220.00; Total \$419.75)

G. Charleene Martens and 5 students, Tuesday, April 16, 2024, NEIU (Travel \$33.50, Substitute \$110.00; Total \$143.50)

Motion Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

5.3. Approve Waiver of Expulsion

The motion is made by Mr. Flynn, second by Mr. Very, to approve the Waiver of Expulsion for student #26072 beginning February 2, 2024 and expiring last day of the 2023-2024 school year (depending on school calendar).

Motion Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

5.4. Re-Approve School Calendar

The motion is made by Mr. Flynn, second by Mr. Very, to re-approve the 2023-2024 school year calendar, with changes, as presented.

Motion 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 discussed the solar presentation options. This year we burned 851 tons of wood chips at a cost of \$47,000. The oil equivalent would have been 262,000 gallons at a cost of \$1,005,000.

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

8.1 Approve MOU with MVEA for Duration of 2023-2024 School Year

The motion is made by Mr. Decker, second by Mr. O'Dell, to approve the MOU with the MVEA for the duration of the 2023-2024 school year to temporarily extend the retirement incentive, as presented.

Motion Carried: 8 Yes, 1 Absent

9. Administration

9.1 Principals' Comments

Elementary Principal - Mr. Patrick McGarry

- Mr. McGarry announced that Karen Zaums was named the PASC Advisor of the Year. The PTO is giving each student \$15 for field trips. Kindergarten and Pre-K registration will take place in April. He thanked Laurie Barlow for her years of service.

High School Principal - Dr. Mark Lemoncelli

- Absent

9.2 Director of Special Services - Mrs. Erica Loftus

- Mrs. Loftus stated that PASSA testing began.

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

- Mr. Snyder said that he renewed the Letters training contract and it will be paid with federal funds. He will be attending the Pre-K Counts conference.

9.4 Business Manager – Mr. Thomas Witiak

- Mr. Witiak mentioned that he will be working hard on the budget.

9.5 Superintendent - Dr. Michael Elia

- Dr. Elia said that he will be reviewing the budget in the coming weeks.

10 Closing

10.1 New Business from Board Members

- Mr. Richmond recognized Mr. O'Dell for donating an engraved stone bench.

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.

- Ted Brewster asked clarifying questions about the agenda.

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

HELD:

- Monday, March 18, 2024 - 6:15pm – 7:10 pm for Personnel

SCHEDULED:

- Monday, April 15, 2024 before the public meeting

11 Adjourn

The motion was made by Mr. Flynn, second by Mr. Very, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Witiak