

MOUNTAIN LAKES BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING
Monday, March 29, 2010

The Regular Meeting/Public Hearing of the Mountain Lakes Borough Board of Education was held on Monday, March 29, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mountain Lakes High School.

Daniel A. Borgo
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Roll Call:

Present: Mrs. Burch
Mrs. Feigeles
Mr. Gniewek
Mrs. Mitchell
Mr. Moreau
Mr. Munday
Mrs. Shepell
Mr. Stokes
Mrs. Wall
Mr. Bentrovato, Boonton Township Representative

Also present: Dr. Kazmark, Superintendent, Mary Wallace, MLEA Representative, approximately 50 members of the public

STATEMENT OF NOTICE

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure 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 newspaper: the Citizen and the Morris County Daily Record.

PRESENTATION

2010-2011 Budget

Dr. Kazmark discussed the efforts undertaken over the past year to review the budget and create sustainable reductions. The Board and Administration reviewed the program looking for ways to consolidate services, discussed different delivery mechanisms and tried to make sure that the student experience is similar to or more effective than before with no change in cost.

PRESENTATION continued

Mr. Stokes gave a slide presentation of the budget and discussed the following topics: educational excellence, unprecedented economic changes, commitment to excellence, loss of state aid, confusion caused by inclusion of the Lake Drive School in the budget, 2009-2010 budget analysis showing 74% of costs as salaries and benefits, how the annual budget is funded, the \$759K reduction in total spending, efforts to look for sustainable savings, the proposed 2010-2011 budget, proposed 2.47% tax increase and \$214 increase per average homeowner, sustainable ongoing savings via staff reductions and details of the election.

Dr. Kazmark explained the reductions in teaching staff, changes in the world language program, reduction in the Wildwood 5th grade enrollment, realignment of the PE/Health instruction at Briarcliff, elimination of a district-wide music teacher, re-evaluation of high school offerings in home economics, math, woodshop and Latin and the reduction of the custodial staff by one person.

Mr. Stokes continued the presentation discussing the suspension of capital projects and opportunities for savings including the request that the MLEA/MLAA and staff forego salary increases, potential retirement of senior staff members, obtaining of an alternate supplier of health benefits, consideration of student activity fees for athletics and extra-curricular activities, fees for high school parking and discussions with Boonton Township regarding additional shared services arrangements. Mr. Stokes also presented slides with respect to the comparison of costs per student with other districts, the actual cost per student for Mountain Lakes after exclusion of the Lake Drive figures and what will happen if the budget is defeated.

Mr. Borgo reviewed the budget process and budget goals, the increase in the cost of health insurance, enrollment comparisons, breakdown of fixed costs, revenue sources, ten year synopsis of tax increases and the details of the election. He noted that the brochure that in prior years had been mailed to the community is available on line for review.

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM MLEA PRESIDENT

Mary Wallace, MLEA President, said these are difficult times and no one likes to lose personnel and programs. She commended the members of the Board, Dr. Kazmark and Mr. Borgo for their hard work in presenting a budget that is the lowest in Morris County. She said the staff and faculty support the budget and encourage members of the community to get out and vote in support of the budget to maintain the current excellence they have worked so hard to create.

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The hearing was opened to the public for questions or comments regarding the budget presentation.

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COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC continued

Members of the public, including Mark Mattia, Mark Haywood, Tim Carruthers, Laverne Mensah, Kevin Dolan, Vicky Allison, John Whitehurst, Rebecca Hadjiloucas, John Sentiwany, Joe Cavelarti, Bill Roos and James Cavanaugh, raised questions, made comments and received responses as follows:

- How does decrease in staff equate to decrease in current expense numbers?
- Commend the Board for coming up with 2.4% increase in taxes but would challenge the Board to reduce that to zero.
- Many people in town are in tough financial times.
- Increased class size would result in no increase in the budget and have minimal impact on student experience.
- Increased class size does not equate to a decrease in academic excellence.
- Teachers and state employees have the market power to be treated like a large corporation by providers of health insurance.
- Does elimination of state aid exempt the district from mandates?
- Dr. Kazmark advised that there are proposals being introduced to reduce state mandates.
- The savings as a result of potential retirees would be approximately \$18K per retiree.
- The district is fortunate to have such wonderful teachers.
- It was suggested that SAT and ACT prep courses be offered at the high school as a source of revenue and Dr. Kazmark advised that there is a current program that passes the savings on to Mountain Lake students.
- Is there an opportunity to restructure debt service through refinance?
- It was restructured 3 or 4 years ago and it is checked periodically.
- There are companies who will provide solar panels. Has that been looked into?
- The arrangements for solar panels with the County were explained.
- Have administrators been asked to forego their raises?
- Dr. Kazmark advised that each group was asked and in all cases the answer has been no. Those involved are hesitant to make a decision since the requests being made are changing every day.
- If administrators say no, why would teachers say yes?
- Private sector people have gotten no increase for a number of years. There are many people in this town without any income.
- Teachers and administrators in the district are very special to the community and their involvement and support for school programs is second to none.
- The Board members were thanked for the time and effort they have put into the budget.

There were no other members of the public who wished to address the Board and the hearing was closed to the public.

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Mrs. Wallace stated that the MLEA has not made a formal response to the request to forgo the salary increase because these issues are so huge. The members care about the children of Mountain Lakes but they also care about their own families and rely on what was negotiated. The 4% increase is an overall increase and not across the board. The MLEA members are very proud of the district's program and want to maintain it.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Burch, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 1, 2010 as presented.

Motion carried 9-0-1 (Abstain-Mr. Bentrovato).

Motion by Mrs. Shepell, seconded by Mrs. Burch, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of March 1, 2010 as presented.

Motion carried 9-0-1 (Abstain-Mr. Bentrovato).

Motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mrs. Burch, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 21, 2010 with the following correction:

Page 1, correct spelling of Mrs. Feigeles.

Motion carried 9-0-1 (Abstain-Mr. Bentrovato).

Motion by Mrs. Burch, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 22, 2010 with the following corrections:

Page 2, paragraph 3, change pay for dental benefits to pay toward dental benefits.

Page 2, paragraph 4, change Jenny Lynch to Jerry Lynch, and change Schuler to Schindler.

Page 2, bullet 7, change identical provider to equivalent coverage.

Page 3, bullet 3, change 2.5% to 2.5% hard cap on total budgets.

Motion carried 10-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Kazmark advised that there is a proposal from Wildwood School for participation in a St. Baldwick fund drive to raise funds for children with cancer. Donations are collected for people

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to have their heads shaved and he will be the first volunteer. The Board was in favor of approving the fund raiser.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Mrs. Burch reported that the Casino Night was well attended and well run. They believe they did better than last year and there were many donations from the district.

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Mrs. Feigeles advised that Dr. Kazmark gave a presentation on the budget at the meeting last week and it was well attended. Home & School is moving ahead with converting the printed bulletin to an online version as a cost saving measure. The online version will be launched in September. A printed version of the Bulletin will be available in public places such as the library, Borough Hall and the schools.

BOONTON TOWNSHIP REPORT

Mr. Bentreovato advised that the Boonton Township Public Hearing is scheduled on Wednesday, March 31. There was a meeting last week that was positive. They will have a separate question on the ballot with regard to courtesy busing.

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/
BOARD SECRETARY**

Please note that Mr. Bentreovato, Boonton Township representative to the Mountain Lakes Board, only votes on high school and district wide issues.

Motion by Mrs. Burch, seconded by Mrs. Wall that the Check Register for the month of February 2010 be approved for payment as follows: ⁴³³⁻⁰⁹
Check
Register

(1) Hand Checks	Check #10021 through #10030	\$87,357.59
(2) Wire Transfers		\$3,146,171.31
(2) Computer Checks	Check #68756 through #68847	\$189,321.03

Total **\$3,422,849.93**

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

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**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/
BOARD SECRETARY continued**

Motion by Mrs. Burch, seconded by Mrs. Wall, that the Board Secretary's Report for the month of February 2010, under the GAAP format, be approved, noting that this report is based on Detailed Account Listing for this month, approved by the board, and based on the Board Secretary's signed monthly certification as to budgetary line item status.

434-09
Board
Secretary
Report

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Burch, seconded by Mrs. Wall, that the Report of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of February 2010 be approved.

435-09
Treasurer
Of School
Monies Report

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Burch, seconded by Mrs. Wall, that the transfers from anticipated surplus funds in designated line items of the 2009-2010 Budget to anticipate over expended line items of the 2009-2010 Budget in the amounts and accounts as indicated be approved. Be it also resolved that the attached 2009-2010 transfer history spreadsheet be approved through 2/28/10.

436-09
Transfers

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Burch, seconded by Mrs. Wall, that the Check Register for the month of March 2010 be approved for payment as follows:

437-09
Check
Register

Computer Checks	Check #68848	through #68967	\$293,669.59
		Total	\$293,669.59

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

438-09
Home
Instruction

Motion by Mrs. Burch, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve home instruction for #09-112, Grade 11, Mountain Lakes High School, effective immediately. Home instruction will take place for approximately 4 weeks at \$50 per hour.

Instructors: Elizabeth Kopp, Virginia Dunphy, Laura Knors, Steve Hendricks

439-09
Joint
Transportation
Agreement

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Burch, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve the attached resolution for participation in joint transportation agreement with the Sussex County Regional Cooperative for the 2010-2011 School Year.

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**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/
BOARD SECRETARY continued**

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Burch, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve the disposal of the attached list of obsolete textbooks from Briarcliff School.

440-09
Disposal of
Textbooks

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Burch, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve the following change in Lake Drive School Enrollment for the 2009-2010 School Year:

431-09
Change in
Lake Drive
Enrollment

Jersey Public Schools #LD181 Effective 3/22/10 Regular Program

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Burch, seconded by Mrs. Wall, BE IT RESOLVED to approve the school district budget for the FY 2010-2011 school year for submission to the voters as follows:

442-09
Approval
To Submit
2010-2011
Budget to
Voters

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Total Tax Levy</u>
Total General Fund	\$33,000,367	\$18,254,489
Total Special Revenue Fund	\$435,020	
Total Debt Service Fund	\$1,257,805	\$1,151,079
Totals	\$34,693,192	\$19,405,568

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Motion by Mrs. Burch, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, to approve the following course(s) for tuition reimbursement when the course has been completed and the transcript received by the Superintendent's office:

443-09
Tuition
Reimbursement

Kimberly Furka WW	Walden	Teacher as Professional	3 credits
Jennifer Munday WW	Walden	Teacher as Professional	3 credits
Mary Ellen Deitrick WW	Walden	Teacher as Professional	3 credits

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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
continued

Peggy Maiuro WW	Cambridge	Sch Health Management	3 credits
		Dealing with Grief	3 credits
		Legal Responsibilities	3 credits
		Eval of Sch Health Programs	3 credits
		Sch Nurse Leadership	3 credits
Chris Bernotas HS	MaryGrove	Research Based Instr. Strategies	3 credits
		Self-Directed Learn. & Student Engage.	3 credits

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Burch, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, to approve the travel and reimbursement of actual expenses incurred up to the amount indicated on the attached list of **Wildwood School** personnel in accordance with Policy #9250 – Travel and Related Expenses. 444-09
Approval
Travel &
Reimbursement

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 8-0-1(Abstain-Mr. Munday).

Motion by Mrs. Burch, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, to approve the travel and reimbursement of actual expenses incurred up to the amount indicated on the attached list of **Lake Drive School** personnel in accordance with Policy #9250 – Travel and Related Expenses. 445-09
Approval
Travel &
Reimbursement

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Burch, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, to approve the travel and reimbursement of actual expenses incurred up to the amount indicated on the attached list of **Mountain Lakes High School** personnel in accordance with Policy #9250 – Travel and Related Expenses. 446-09
Approval
Travel &
Reimbursement

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mrs. Burch, to approve the attached list of field trip(s) for **Mountain Lakes High School**. 447-09
Field Trips

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mrs. Burch, to approve an overnight field trip to **Gallaudet University**, Washington DC for Lake Drive High School students to compete in the Nationals for the Academic Bowl. **Dates of trip:** April 24-27, 2010. **Cost per student:** \$0. **Number of students:** 4. **Chaperones:** Marion Clark, Diane Hewitt and Phyllis Rosenberg. 448-09
Overnight
Field Trip

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
continued

449-09
Extended
Maternity/
Child Care
Leave

Motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mrs. Burch, to approve an extended maternity/child care leave of absence through June 30, 2011 for **Christine Dam**, teacher at Briarcliff School. Ms. Dam plans on returning for the 2011-2012 school year.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

450-09
Extended
Maternity/
Child Care
Leave

Motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mrs. Burch, to approve an extended maternity/child care leave of absence through June 30, 2011 for **Marisa LaVerde**, teacher at Briarcliff School. Ms. LaVerde plans on returning for the 2011-2012 school year.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

451-09
Maternity/
Child Care
Leave

Motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mrs. Burch, to approve a maternity/child care leave of absence for **Jeannette Mackey**, Teacher of the Deaf at Lake Drive School, effective September 1, 2010. Ms. Mackey will use her remaining 36 sick days and be paid through October 22nd and is eligible for health benefits as provided under FMLA and NJFLA through December 31, 2010. Ms. Mackey plans on returning to work for the 2011-2012 school year.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

452-09
Maternity/
Child Care
Leave

Motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mrs. Burch, to approve a maternity/child care leave of absence for **Danielle Macaluso**, teacher at Mountain Lakes High School, effective June 7, 2010. Ms. Macaluso will use her remaining 33 sick days and be paid through October 5th and is eligible for health benefits as provided under FMLA and NJFLA through December 31, 2010. Ms. Macaluso plans on returning to work on November 29, 2010.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

453-09
Maternity/
Child Care
Leave

Motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve a maternity/child care leave of absence for **Sherri King**, paraprofessional at Lake Drive School, effective April 8, 2010. Ms. King will use her remaining 2 sick days and be paid through April 9th and is eligible for health benefits as provided under FMLA and NJFLA through October 31, 2010. Ms. King plans on returning to work on September 1, 2010.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

454-09
Personnel
Appointment

Motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve the appointment of **Christine Pinto-Cogburn**, as a Communications, Writing & Basic Skills teacher at Briarcliff School, effective September 1, 2010, BA Step 4 on the Teachers' Guide, at an annual rate of \$50,623. Ms. Pinto-Cogburn will be replacing Mr. Gleeson.

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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
continued

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve the appointment of **Erin Walsh**,⁴⁵⁵⁻⁰⁹ as a replacement teacher at Briarcliff School, effective September 1, 2010 through the last day^{Personnel Appointment} of school, at MA Step 1 on the Teachers' Guide, at an annual cost of \$55,723. Ms. Walsh will replace Ms. Dam while she is on a maternity leave of absence.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve an increase in time for **Paula Obenauer**, paraprofessional/bus driver at Lake Drive, from 6.5 to 7 hours per day, effective March 15, 2010 to the last day of school.

456-09
Personnel
Increase in
Time

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve the extra-pay appointments of the attached list of Mountain Lakes High School Personnel for the 2010-2011 school year.

457-09
Personnel
Extra-Pay
Appointments

Discussion took place regarding the high amount paid to assistant coaches in football as compared to assistants in other sports. It was suggested that this would be appropriate issue for extra/co-curricular committee to look at.

It was suggested that the Board wait to vote on the coaching positions until after the vote on the budget. Discussion took place and it was decided to proceed with the motion.

Motion carried by roll call vote 8-0-2 (Abstain-Mrs. Mitchell, Mr. Munday for reasons of personal conflict).

Motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve payment to the following list of Lake Drive personnel for interpreting the Spring Musical at MLHS at a stipend of \$800.00 each.

458-09
Personnel
Extra Pay
Appointments

Penny Mittleman

Phyllis Rosenberg

Pamela Schwartz

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve the attached list of substitute teachers for the district for the remaining 2009-2010 school year.

459-09
Personnel
Substitute
Appointments

Pamela Ahn interviewed and recommended by Dr. Mucci

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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
continued

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Wall, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, to approve the make-up day for students & staff at Wildwood and Briarcliff on Monday, June 21, 2010, early dismissal, due to power outage at both schools on March 15, 2010.

460-09
Make-up
Day

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Wall, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, to approve the travel and reimbursement of actual expenses incurred up to the amount indicated on the attached list of **Mountain Lakes High School/District** personnel in accordance with Policy #9250 – Travel and Related Expenses.

461-09
Travel &
Reimbursement

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Gniewek advised that he attended a roundtable discussion at Representative Bucco's office with representatives of the Boonton Township, Boonton and Denville Boards of Education to discuss what is going on in the school districts.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion took place regarding the lack of communication with members of the community that do not have children in the school system. The non-school community was not advised that the budget information that would normally have been mailed would only be available online. It was suggested that a call be made to the 55+ groups advising where they can pick up copies of the brochure.

It was suggested that an ad hoc committee be formed with Board members, community members and staff to create a communication plan. It was also suggested that a message be put up on the town bulletin board providing information on where to obtain copies of the budget brochure.

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM MLEA PRESIDENT

Ms. Wallace thanked the Board for supporting the teachers and acknowledging their worth in the district.

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COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public who wished to address the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Mitchell , seconded by Mrs. Burch, that meeting be adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

Motion carried 10-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel A. Borgo
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Regina Giardina, Stenographer

Meetings of the Mountain Lakes Board of Education

<u>Date</u>	<u>Type of Meeting</u>	<u>Place</u>
April 12, 2010	Regular	Mountain Lakes High School (7:30 p.m.)
April 26, 2010	Regular and Reorganization	Mountain Lakes High School (7:30 p.m.)