

MOUNTAIN LAKES BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Monday, April 3, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Mountain Lakes Borough Board of Education was held on Monday, April 3, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mountain Lakes High School.

Robert C. Rader
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Roll Call:

Present: Mrs. Boertzel (7:35)
Mrs. Brennan
Mrs. Dawson
Mrs. McCusker
Mr. Munday
Mr. Stokes
Mrs. Wall
Mrs. Pascarella, Boonton Township Representative
Dave Dobrosky, High School Student Representative

Absent: Mr. Gniewek
Mrs. Lareau

Also present: Dr. Kazmark, Superintendent, and 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 newspapers: the Citizen of Morris County and the Morris County Daily Record.

REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Dave Dobrosky reported that there was an excellent assembly today on the topic of how to be a successful person and making the right decisions. The Constitution Committee is still working and expects to finish up by the end of the school year. Dave also reported on the Spirit Week activities at the high school.

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COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Fred Kanter stated that the Board is in violation of state law because there are no minutes available from the last meeting. Mr. Kanter commented with respect to the discrepancy in the published budget and the budget brochure as to the number of students being sent to other districts. Mr. Kanter expressed the opinion that this information was withheld because the district is embarrassed to have a student going out of district and that a lie has been told by someone about the reasons for that student leaving the district. He also expressed the opinion that there is a problem with bullying in the school district.

Mr. Kanter was advised that he had used his allotted time and was asked to refrain from further comments. Mr. Kanter continued to speak and the Board took a short recess.

Following the recess, Dr. Kazmark stated that there was an error in the advertised budget that was corrected in the budget brochure. This issue was discussed at the budget hearing and an explanation given and at the end of that hearing Mr. Kanter stated that he understood the explanation.

Dr. Rader advised that there is no state law that requires the Board to approve the minutes at their next meeting. There are guidelines that suggest that draft minutes should be prepared within seven days of the meeting and that they should be made available to anyone who requests them. The draft minutes of the March 27 Public Hearing were prepared within 7 days and sent by email to the Board members today. Those minutes will be reviewed and approved at the next meeting.

Mrs. Dawson, chair of Policy Committee, stated that the district has a policy with regard to bullying, is very serious about that policy and the disciplinary regulations included in it. The district is fully compliant with all aspects of that policy.

Mr. Stokes noted that at the public hearing on the budget, the correction to the number of out of district students in the budget brochure that was sent to all Mountain Lakes households, which was originally reported differently in the advertised budget, was discussed and explained. Mr. Stokes also recalled that Mr. Kanter acknowledged at the time that correcting the number in the brochure, the more recent and likely-more-widely-read document, was appropriate and consistent with full disclosure.

COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Kazmark advised that he received an email from Laker Sports advising that they are ready to begin fundraising for the turf field and hope to have the project done for the 2007 school year. He will be reporting that information in the Home & School Bulletin.

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Mrs. McCusker advised that she received notification from New Jersey School Boards that she is now a certificated board member.

COMMUNICATIONS continued

Dr. Rader discussed a request he has received from a family that is planning to move into Mountain Lakes some time in the future and would like to send their child to Mountain Lakes High School as a tuition student this fall.

Discussion took place regarding the Board's present policy with respect to tuition students and future discussions to take place regarding that policy. This policy will be reviewed by the Program Committee and then discussed by the full Board. It was suggested that the request be responded to by explaining the current policy and advising that the policy is being reviewed and if there is a change that would affect the student's eligibility they will be contacted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Mrs. Wall advised that the committee had an enthusiastic presentation by Bob Reid on the Collins Writing Program that will be introduced at Wildwood and Briarcliff. There will be an in service for staff this week and an evening presentation for the public at Wildwood to give parents the opportunity to hear first hand what is planned. Some of the teachers have already begun to introduce some of the techniques in the classroom and there is tremendous enthusiasm about the program that will also be shared with Rockaway Valley School in Boonton Township. The committee also discussed the planned collaboration between the Special Education Department and the History and World Cultures Departments with regard to curriculum work to be done in the summer or early fall.

SPECIAL EDUCATION FORUM

Mrs. Wall advised that there is no program scheduled in April due to the spring break. The next program will be presented on May 9 by Fran Micelli on the subject of planning for the future and positive decision making.

FIT FOR LIFE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Brennan advised that the Project ACES (All Children Exercising Simultaneously) has been scheduled on May 3. The committee is working on a proposal for a community bike ride and this will be discussed with Chief Tovo. Mrs. Brennan will be working with Mrs. Mucci on a grant that is available for community involvement in fitness.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS continued

HIGH SCHOOL FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Dr. Kazmark advised that the floor in the new gym is $\frac{3}{4}$ complete and hopefully will be in place by the end of the week. There has also been great progress on the media center and the projected turn over date for that is May 1.

MORRIS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Mr. Stokes advised that he has volunteered to serve on the Board of Directors of the Morris County School Boards Association next year.

BOONTON TOWNSHIP REPORT

Mrs. Pascarella advised that they had their budget presentation last week. She asked Dr. Kazmark to speak to Mr. Ludwig about initiating a phone chain to call parents to remind them to vote in the school election.

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

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

Motion by Mrs. Boertzel, seconded by Mrs. Wall, that the Report of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of January 2006 be approved.

275-05
Treasurer of
School Monie
Report

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 8-0.

Motion by Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, that the Current Check Register (Bills List) for the month of February 2006, be approved for payment in the amount of \$106,791.98.

288-05
Check
Register

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 8-0 (Mr. Munday abstained with regard to 05-0032).

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Kazmark advised that Sandy Svenningsen, Lew Ludwig and Rob Downes gave a presentation to ASCD on the district's honor code.

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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
continued

Motion by Mrs. Wall, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, to approve the following courses for tuition reimbursement when the course has been completed and the transcripts received by the Superintendent:

289-05
Tuition
Reimburse

Maureen Butler University of Wisconsin World Drumming 3 credits
Lake Drive

Donna Salvo Union County College Interpreting Strategies 3 credits
Lake Drive for Deaf/Blind Interpreting
 Legal & Ethical Issues 3 credits
 For Educ. Interpreters

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 8-0.

Motion by Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve an increase in time from 100% to 120% for the following personnel needed to cover Caren Pasquale's maternity leave:

290-05
Personnel
Increase in
Time

Bruce Dugan	5/1 thru 6/13	Mary Ann Albers	5/1 thru 6/13
Amy Harrington	5/1 thru 6/13	Rob Downes	5/1 thru 6/13
Sandy Arthurs	4/24 thru 6/13		

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, to approve the appointment of Denise DiGiacopo as a full-time paraprofessional at Lake Drive School effective April 4, 2006 at a salary of \$11.33 per hour, 6 hours per day, Step 1.

291-05
Personnel
Appointme

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, to approve the appointment of Matthew Bezaire as a full-time paraprofessional at Lake Drive School effective April 4, 2006 at a salary of \$11.33 per hour, 6 hours per day, Step 1.

292-05
Personnel
Appointme

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Wall, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, to approve the appointment of Ann O'Connell as secretary to the Superintendent of Schools effective July 1, 2006 until her retirement on September 1, 2006 at a pro-rated salary of \$57,720.

293-05
Personnel
Appointme

Motion carried by a 7-0-1 roll call vote with Mr. Stokes abstaining.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dr. Kazmark advised that Board members who want to take a tour of the high school should contact him. He will schedule two or more dates for tours.

Mrs. McCusker advised that she will be sending out follow-up emails with regard to possible dates for the Superintendent's evaluation meeting.

In response to questions that were raised at the last meeting, Dr. Kazmark advised that the primary reasons for the increase in the cost of the 8th grade Boston trip are the number of students in each room and the increase in fuel costs. It will be made clear to parents that anyone who cannot attend the trip due to the cost should contact the Superintendent's office. Dr. Kazmark also advised that the 8th grade French trip has been rescheduled so it will not conflict with the choir concert.

With regard to the question raised as to reimbursements for students, additional research is being done on the new law to see how it pertains to students.

Dr. Kazmark advised that Duke Smith met with him and Dr. Rader in the Board office and listed his questions with regard to the budget in written form. Those questions will be answered in a public session of the Board but since Mr. Smith was unable to attend this evening that will be done at the April 17 meeting.

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Fred Kanter stated that he has a right to an answer to the question he raised earlier in the meeting. Mr. Kanter objected to the actions taken at the earlier public session to prevent him from approaching the Board table and Dr. Kazmark. Mr. Kanter expressed the opinion that the Board has not conducted their meetings legally for the past 21 years and that there is a problem in the district with bullying, drugs and suicides.

Dr. Kazmark advised that at the Public Hearing the Board responded to the question regarding the correction in the budget brochure and at that time Mr. Kanter responded that he understood and accepted the explanation.

Dr. Rader stated that the minutes of the last meeting have been drafted and posted for Board member input. The district is completely in compliance with state law regarding minutes and the minutes are subject to approval by the Board at the next meeting. The minutes are also available for anyone who wants to inspect them in draft form.

Mr. Stokes stated that he was taken aback by Mr. Kanter's comments during the first public session because he thought that the Board had been very straightforward in explaining that

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COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC continued

it was simply a matter of presenting the data in a more forthcoming manner which Mr. Kanter acknowledged at the budget hearing.

Mrs. McCusker stated that the district sends students to where it is best for them and the district has nothing to hide.

Dr. Kazmark noted that he did not believe Mr. Kanter heard the responses to his questions since he left the meeting at the end of the first public session and was talking while they were being given after the second public session. However, his questions have been responded to twice this evening.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to adopt a Resolution to enter into Closed Session for the discussion of matters involving personnel. Resolution was duly read and the Board entered into Executive Session at 8:55 p.m.

Motion carried 8-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Wall, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, that meeting be adjourned from Executive Session at 9:57 p.m.

Motion carried 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C. Rader
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Regina Giardina, Stenographer

APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
March 6, 2006

Meetings of the Mountain Lakes Board of Education

<u>Date</u>	<u>Type of Meeting</u>	<u>Place</u>
April 17, 2006	Regular Meeting	Mountain Lakes High School (7:30 p.m.)
April 18, 2006	School Election	St. Catherine's Parish Center (7:00 a.m – 9:00 p.m.)
May 1, 2006	Reorganization Meeting	Mountain Lakes High School (7:30 p.m.)