

MOUNTAIN LAKES BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Monday, March 1, 2010

The Regular Meeting of the Mountain Lakes Borough Board of Education was held on Monday, March 1, 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. Sheppell
Mr. Stokes
Mrs. Wall

Absent: Mr. Bantovato, Boonton Township Representative

Also present: Dr. Kazmark, Superintendent, Mary Wallace, MLEA Representative

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

Steve Ryan and Angel Concepcion made a presentation to the Board with regard to their review of the World Language program, proposed changes in the program and the impact on the program of potential personnel cuts. Mr. Concepcion provided details of the present program offerings at Wildwood, Briarcliff and the high school and opportunities in terms of efficiencies in staff utilization. Mr. Ryan stated that they are looking at how language instruction is addressed at the elementary level, possible modifications in grades 1st – 3rd and believe the students would be better served if the present program for the 4th and 5th grades is maintained.

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COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM MLEA PRESIDENT

Ms. Wallace had no comments or requests.

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Members of the public including Ron Frank, Angie Distogi, Jen Orkin, Melissa Muilenburg, Terrence Hahn, Debra Dewing and Chester Walsh commented with regard to the presentation and the following points were raised:

- A member of the public expressed the opinion that the level of language acquisition at the elementary level is not impressive and that should be reviewed.
- Early language acquisition benefits the students and leads to more success in language in the upper grades. Consideration should be given to reducing the amount of Latin that is offered at the high school rather than reducing the program at the elementary school level.
- Concern was expressed about a trend to give short shrift to language.
- A suggestion was made that the language program be changed to include Mandarin.
- Language skills should be considered as people are hired to work in the schools.
- A question was raised with regard to class size and whether or not there are guidelines with regard to class size.

Dr. Kazmark advised that when resumes are reviewed they look at what else a teacher might bring to the classroom. Class size is a significant concern that needs to be looked at throughout the district.

Further comments from the public and discussion included the following:

- Further reductions in the language program should be avoided and it was suggested that cultural diversity be added to the curriculum.
- Participation in on-line courses would broaden the number of students that can participate.
- We should explore partnering with other local larger schools to provide language courses on line.
- Major universities are doing more teaching on line. Is there any concern about how colleges perceive high school courses taken on line?

In response to questions about on line courses, Dr. Kazmark noted that there are advantages to the students in preparation for college since most major universities are now using on line instruction. Dr. Kazmark advised that a message was sent to the community advising of the presentation on the World Language Program. Similar messages will be sent out when there will be discussion of any other changes in program. He thanked the members of the public for attending and for their input.

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REPORT OF THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Kevin Shepard and Michael Emer advised that the Musical “Into the Woods” will be presented at the high school starting on March 4. On Tuesday and Wednesday the high school students in grades 9, 10 and 12 will start school at 10:15 due to the 11th grade students taking the HESPA tests. The senior trip will be to Madame Tussaud’s in New York City. School will be open on April 8 and 9 because of the snow days. Winter sports are wrapping up. In wrestling there were five wrestlers who went to the district championships and three to the regional championships. The hockey team and girls’ and boys’ basketball teams are doing well. The girls’ swim team won the State title and the boys’ and girls’ teams are going on to the tournament of champions.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Burch, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 8, 2010 as presented.

Motion carried 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Burch, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of February 8, 2010 with the following correction:

Page 2, change number of students to several students.

Motion carried 9-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Kazmark advised that there has been a great deal of communication from the State regarding budgets and state aid. There was a request from the County office for information as to what decrease in staffing would be necessary if there was no increase in next year’s budget.

Tomorrow evening there is a program scheduled entitled “Summit in Summit” which will be a discussion about New Jersey education.

Mr. Borgo advised that a discrepancy was found in the State calculations as a result of inclusion of Lake Drive numbers as part of the reserve and we were successful in getting that money back.

Mr. Borgo advised that a special meeting will be needed on Monday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m. to approve the tentative budget prior to the Public Hearing on March 29. The budget will still be a working document that will be finalized at the Public Hearing on March 29. He will distribute a summary of the budget to the Board members prior to the meeting on the 22nd.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Stokes advised that the committee met and continued to work on the budget. A 10% reduction in state aid is now being assumed and we continue to work toward a budget requiring a tax increase in the 2% range. The committee is still in the process of looking at health benefits.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Mrs. Feigeles advised that the committee met and had an opportunity to hear the World Language presentation, ask questions and look at the pros and cons. The committee will continue to try to identify economies in staffing and still meet the program objectives.

SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Wall advised that the committee met and discussed the pre-school open houses that were scheduled. One was held and one was postponed to the week of March 15 because of the weather. The committee discussed efforts to advertise the open house and provide an opportunity for people to come and see the program. There have been a number of inquiries and the intention is to have rolling admissions with spaces filled as available. The committee also discussed staffing issues including support and in service for teachers in grade 2 and bringing in consultants to work with teachers on differentiation and classroom management. This coming Tuesday evening, March 9, at 7:30, Christie Whitehouse, speech specialist, is going to give a presentation on the topic of writing across the curriculum.

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Mrs. Burch encouraged the Board members to attend and support the fund raising event scheduled to be held on March 27.

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Mrs. Feigeles advised that there will be a program on Tuesday, March 23 which has been advertised as a chance to hear the budget plans before the final decisions are made, to express concerns and ask questions. It will provide an opportunity for Board members to hear what the public is thinking.

It was noted that the League of Women Voters is having meeting on the same topic in the morning of that day.

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

Please note that Mr. Bentrovato, 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 January 2010 be approved for payment as follows:

398-09
Check
Register

Computer Checks	Check #68630	through #68676	\$88,461.94
		Total	\$88,461.94

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Burch, seconded by Mrs. Wall, that the Board Secretary's Report for the month of January 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.

399-09
Board
Secretary
Report

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

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

400-09
Treasurer of
School Monies
Report

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

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 1/31/10.

401-09
Transfers

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

402-09
Check
Register

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

Computer Checks	Check #68677	through #68754	\$200,653.01
		Total	\$200,653.01

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

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

Motion by Mrs. Burch, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve the following Non-resident Student Tuition Rates for the 2010-2011 school year:

403-09
Non-Resident
Tuition Rates

Kindergarten	\$6,800
Grades 1 – 5	\$12,400
Grades 6 – 8	\$12,600
High School	\$14,400

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

404-09
Home
Instruction

Motion by Mrs. Burch, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve Home Instruction for #09-111, grade 12, from January 11, 2010 to February 19, 2010, at a rate of \$285 per week, provided by the New Hope Foundation.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

405-09
Home
Instruction

Motion by Mrs. Burch, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve home instruction for #09-107, grade 10, at St. Clare's Hospital effective immediately. St. Clare's Hospital will provide home instruction at an hourly rate of \$49.00.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

406-09
State Aid
Withholdings

Motion by Mrs. Burch, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve the appeal of State Aid Withholdings in the amount of \$269,308 to \$188,037.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Burch, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve a resolution to support the historic preservation of the Lake Drive School.

407-09
Resolution
Historic
Preservation
Lake Drive

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Stokes, to approve development of an inter local agreement between the Borough of Mountain Lakes and Mountain Lakes Board of Education for the purpose of applying for preservation funding for the Lake Drive School.

408-09
Agreement
Preservation
Funding for
Lake Drive

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

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

Motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Stokes, to approve the Borough of Mountain Lake to apply on behalf of the Mountain Lakes Board of Education for two grants to the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust Fund:

409-09
Grant
Application
Historic
Preservation
Trust Fund

- a) The Development of a Preservation Plan. Grant Request: \$4,950.
- b) A Stabilization Grant for a new roof for Lake Drive School. Grant Request \$175,000.
- c)

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Burch, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell to approve an additional Board meeting on March 22, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at Mountain Lakes High School for the purpose of approving the 2011-2012 tentative school budget.

424-09
Additional
Board
Meeting

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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

410-09
Tuition
Reimbursement

Deborah Palazzi	Montclair	Intro ECE Theory into Practice	1.5 credits
WW		Application of Theory & Practice	1.5 credits

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mr. Stokes, seconded by Mrs. Shepell, 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.

411-09
Personnel
Travel and
Reimbursement

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mr. Stokes, seconded by Mrs. Shepell, 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.

412-09
Personnel
Travel and
Reimbursement

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
continued

Motion by Mr. Stokes, seconded by Mrs. Shepell, to approve the travel and reimbursement of actual expenses incurred up to the amount indicated on the attached list of **Technology** personnel in accordance with Policy #9250 – Travel and Related Expenses.

413-09
Personnel
Travel and
Reimbursement

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mr. Stokes, seconded by Mrs. Shepell, to approve the travel and reimbursement of actual expenses incurred up to the amount indicated on the attached list of **Briarcliff School** personnel in accordance with Policy #9250 – Travel and Related Expenses.

414-09
Personnel
Travel and
Reimbursement

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mrs. Burch, 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.

415-09
Personnel
Travel and
Reimbursement

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mrs. Burch, to approve the attached list of field trip(s) for **Briarcliff School**.

416-09
Field Trips

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

417-09
Field Trips

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

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

418-09
Personnel
Retirement

Motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mrs. Burch, to accept the retirement of **Thomas Stainton**, teacher at Briarcliff School, effective June 30, 2010 with appreciation for his service.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

419-09
Personnel
Extended
Leave of
Absence

Motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mrs. Burch, to approve an extended medical leave of absence through June 30, 2010 for **Regina Michel**, School Nurse at Lake Drive School.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
continued

Motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mrs. Burch, to approve the increase in pay for **Kenneth White**, teacher at Mountain Lakes High School, for additional Drafting & Design classes, effective March 1, 2010 to June 18, 2010 from 100% to 140%, pro-rated.

420-09
Personnel
Increase in Pay

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Wall, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, to approve the appointment of **John Pinto**, to provide home instruction, as needed, at an hourly rate of \$50.00 per hour.

421-09
Home
Instruction

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Wall, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, to approve the appointment of **Jennifer Kruzel**, as a full time teacher consultant at Lake Drive School for the Early Intervention Program, effective 2/8/10 through 6/30/10 for a fee of \$29,353.

422-09
Personnel
Appointment

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Wall, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, to approve the following list as substitute teachers for the district for the remaining 2009-2010 school year, pending completion of paperwork.

423-09
Personnel
Substitute
Appointments

Angela DeLorenzo	interviewed & recommended by Mr. Henry
Kathleen Cannavina	“ “ by Mr. Odenwelder
Paula Obenauer (current Para at LD)	“ “ by Ms. Filiaci

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Kazmark advised that he has been contacted by members of the football staff as to recommendations for the head coach position and other coaching positions. They have asked that the Board consider the recommendations.

Discussion took place and it was noted that all interscholastic sports positions will be discussed by the Board in March and it would not be appropriate to discuss the football positions separately. Dr. Kazmark will so advise the football staff. This topic will also be discussed by the Athletics/Extra/Co-Curricular Committee.

Discussion took place regarding notification methods for snow days and other emergencies in view of the problems encountered during the last snow closing when many people were without

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NEW BUSINESS continued

phone, TV and internet access and were not able to be reached. It was suggested that the fire department whistle system be used as a back-up method of notification. Mrs. Feigeles suggested the use of an outside service that would send text messages or call people on their cell phones. It was suggested that cell phone numbers be included on the notification list. Dr. Kazmark advised that a meeting will be held on this subject.

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM MLEA PRESIDENT

Ms. Wallace questioned the motion appointing a substitute teacher who already has a position in the district as a paraprofessional. Dr. Kazmark will check on it and advise.

Discussion of School Calendar

Dr. Kazmark advised that he has had discussions with MLEA on the school calendar and there were some suggestions that should be reviewed by the Board. Discussion took place regarding the calendar including the first day of classes, spring break and graduation date. It is the MLEA's position that four snow days should be built into the calendar to avoid the necessity for reducing the length of the spring break.

Following discussion of the proposed calendar, it was suggested that the first day for teachers be on Wednesday, September 1, the first day for students be on Thursday, September 2nd and then the following week students would attend school Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday with Rosh Hashanah on Thursday and an in-service day for teachers on Friday, inclusion of three snow days and graduation on Monday, June 20. However, Monday, September 6th is Labor Day.

Dr. Kazmark will re-do the calendar and provide it to the Board members for consideration at the next meeting.

Ms. Wallace spoke about the negative effect on education of taking snow days out of the scheduled spring break.

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mrs. Burch, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, to adopt a Resolution to enter into Closed Session for the discussion of legal issues. Resolution was duly read and the Board entered into Executive Session at 10:20 p.m.

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Motion carried 9-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Shepell , seconded by Mrs. Feigeles, that meeting be adjourned at 10:54 p.m.

Motion carried 9-0.

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>
March 22, 2010	Special Meeting	Mountain Lakes High School (7:30 p.m.)
March 29, 2010	Public Hearing/Regular	Mountain Lakes High School (7:30 p.m.)
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.)