

MOUNTAIN LAKES BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Monday, May 7, 2007

The Regular Meeting of the Mountain Lakes Borough Board of Education was held on Monday, May 7, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mountain Lakes High School.

Daniel A. Borgo
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Roll Call:

Present: Mrs. Boertzel
 Mrs. Brennan
 Mrs. Dawson
 Mr. Gniewek
 Mrs. McCusker
 Mr. Munday
 Mr. Stokes
 Mrs. Wall
 Ms. Wolfe
 Mr. Barnes, Boonton Township Representative

Also present: Dr. Kazmark, Superintendent, Amal Hussein, MLEA President, 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.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Ludwig reviewed the research that has been done with regard to the Band Program zero period issue. He said that the goal of the administration is to have as many students as possible scheduled for the classes they want and it has been their experience that the zero period for band accomplished this objective. The students are not exactly happy with the zero period but they prefer it to conflicts with the courses they want to take.

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PRESENTATION continued

Dr. Svenningsen reported on the information she obtained through contacts with other schools and distributed a chart summarizing that information. She noted that some of the schools are larger schools and they all start their day earlier than Mountain Lakes High School. This allows them more flexibility with scheduling.

Dr. Moore reported on the results of her review of the band students' schedules. She compared the band schedule to the master schedule and determined that there are no conflict-free periods available. She further noted that moving band into the school day would have the greatest impact on the exceptional students.

Mr. Bernotas stated that he, too, would like to start later but if he had a choice between a larger number of students involved in music or the later start, he would keep the zero period. He would not like to see students have to choose between band and other courses and feels that the zero period is best for the majority of the students.

Discussion took place and it was the consensus of the Board to accept the recommendation that the band program remain at zero period. It was suggested that the information provided to the Board this evening be made available to parents who have expressed concern about the zero period scheduling and to the public in general by posting on the website.

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM MLEA PRESIDENT

Ms. Hussein noted that the presentation was very well done and thanked the Board for listening to Mr. Bernotas' views on the subject.

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Kazmark distributed copies of a communication that was received from Doug Morrison with regard to the electronic sign that was under discussion for the high school.

Dr. Kazmark advised that Les Aron, an attorney from Sills Cummis, has been named Senior Vice President and General Counsel for New Jersey Medical School and there will be a reception in his honor that Board members are invited to attend on June 6.

Dr. Kazmark advised that there are six tickets available for the Lakeland Strings concert at the high school on May 21.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Mrs. Wall advised that the committee met and Dr. Moore updated the Board on changes in the Guidance Department since her arrival such as changes in testing procedures for the SATs and PSATs. Dr. Moore also reported on what is happening in terms of college admissions, changes in admission patterns and some of the things that the Guidance Department is doing to track them. The committee also reviewed some proposed changes to the drug policy regulations presented by Shari Russo, Steve Ryan and Lew Ludwig.

Dr. Kazmark advised that he asked the administrators to provide information to the Board with respect to positions that might be available in the various grades at the schools.

Bob Reid said that at the present time there are openings available in the 2nd and 4th grades as well as the p.m. kindergarten. The 3rd and 5th grades are currently full.

Anne Mucci advised that at Briarcliff there are openings for up to two 6th graders and two 7th graders. The 8th grade is at capacity. There are 86 students going to the high school from Briarcliff next year.

Lew Ludwig advised that there are 178 students graduating from high school this year. In the freshman class there is probably room for ten students. There is no room in the 10th grade and juniors and seniors would probably not be accepted.

FIT FOR LIFE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Brennan advised that the Walking School Bus had about 35 student participants. There will be a survey about this project in the June Home & School Bulletin. The committee will be looking into recycling in the schools. Project ACES (All Children Exercising Simultaneously) took place last Friday in the district schools.

SPECIAL EDUCATION FORUM

Mrs. Wall advised that the last program of the school year will be held tomorrow night in the high school library at 7:30 and will be a presentation by Coach Randy Nathan, a motivational speaker, on the topic of how parents can assist their middle and high school age children to meet life's challenges.

Dr. Kazmark reported in the meeting held May 1 regarding the proposed high school sign. He gave a presentation and took comments. It was clear that among the audience there were a large number of people who had serious concerns about an electronic sign

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COMMITTEE REPORTS continued

and there were three people who were pro-sign. Suggestions that were made included that it be placed inside the high school or on the side of the building rather than in front. He will be meeting with the people who were involved in fund raising to talk to them about other options for signage.

Discussion took place. Mrs. Brennan noted that she was unable to attend the meeting but is in favor of the sign. She said that the flyer that was distributed contained some misinformation. It was suggested that the money raised for a sign might be used to improve the communications through the website.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Boertzel advised that the committee met and discussed the personnel-related motions on the agenda and the committee is in agreement with them. Dr. Kazmark shared with the committee a plan to go forward with the leadership of Lake Drive School.

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

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

Motion by Mr. Stokes, seconded by Mrs. McCusker, that the Current Check Register (Bills List) for the month of April 2007, be approved for payment in the amount of \$2,695,202.04.

416-06
Check
Register

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mr. Stokes, seconded by Mrs. McCusker, that the 2007-2008 Budget contain a maximum expenditure for travel expenses of \$160,000, in compliance with District Policy #9250 *Travel and Related Expenses*.

417-06
Travel
Maximum
Expenditure

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mr. Stokes, seconded by Mrs. McCusker, to approve the following non-resident tuition student for the 2007-2008 school year:

418-06
Non-res
Tuition Student
2007-2008

Christopher Schneider Boonton, NJ #07-02 Grade K
The recommendation was made by Bob Reid, Wildwood School Principal.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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

419-06
Tuition
Reimbursement

Jennifer Larkin AP Summer Institute Content & Methods for Teaching 3 credits
Lake Drive Seville, Spain AP Spanish and Language

Motion carried by roll call vote 9-0-1 (Abstain-Mr. Munday).

Motion by Mrs. Brennan, seconded by Mrs. Dawson, to approve home instruction for #06-105, grade 9 at St. Clare's Hospital effective immediately. St. Clare's will provide instruction at an hourly rate of \$44.00.

420-06
Special Ed
Home
Instruction

Motion carried by roll call vote 9-0-1 (Abstain-Mr. Munday).

Motion by Mrs. Brennan, seconded by Mrs. Dawson, to approve awarding contracts for the 2007-2008 school year to the teachers listed on the attached **Schedules A, B, C & D**.

421-06
Personnel
Schedules
A,B,C,D

Motion carried by roll call vote 9-0-1 (Abstain-Mr. Munday).

Motion by Mrs. Brennan, seconded by Mrs. Dawson, to approve awarding contracts for the 2007-2008 school year to the administrators listed on the attached **Schedules F, F1 & F2**.

422-06
Personnel
Schedules
F, F1,F2

Motion carried by roll call vote 9-0-1 (Abstain-Mr. Munday).

Motion by Mrs. Brennan, seconded by Mrs. Dawson, to approve awarding contracts for the 2007-2008 school year to the support personnel (custodians, computer technicians, secretaries, paraprofessionals & interpreters) listed on the attached **Schedules E, E1, G, G1 & H**.

423-06
Personnel
Schedules
E,E1,G,G1,H

Motion carried by roll call vote 9-0-1 (Abstain-Mr. Munday).

Motion by Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mrs. McCusker, to accept the resignation of **Dominick Miller**, teacher at Briarcliff School, effective June 30, 2007 with appreciation for his service.

424-06
Personnel
Resignation

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
continued

Motion by Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mrs. McCusker, to approve the extension of the maternity/child care leave of absence through January 28, 2008 for **Suzi Brassard**, Art Teacher at the Mountain Lakes High School.

425-06
Personnel
Extension of
Maternity/
Child Care
Leave

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mrs. McCusker, to approve an overnight field trip to **Holiday Inn**, Somerset, NJ for 11th and 12th grade Vocational & Technical students to participate in 'Skills USA Competition'. **Dates of trip:** May 11- 12, 2007. **Cost per student:** \$0. **Number of students:** 2. **Chaperones:** Coleen Buckley and Eric Johnson (MCST).

426-06
Overnight
Field Trip

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mrs. McCusker, to approve the appointment of **P.G. Chambers School**, for Occupational Therapy services 1 day per week, effective April 30, 2007 through June 21, 2007 at \$70.00 per hour.

427-06
Personnel
Appointment

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mrs. McCusker, to approve the 17th day of May 2007, **Lake Drive Program Founders Day**, in honor of Dr. Laura McKirdy and Gail Dunlap Reuben.

428-06
Personnel
Honoree

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mrs. McCusker, to accept the resignation of **David Alexander**, Principal at Lake Drive School, effective June 30, 2007 with appreciation for his service.

429-06
Personnel
Resignation

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mrs. McCusker, to approve an unpaid leave of absence for **Jennifer Danziger**, Music Teacher at Briarcliff School, for the 2007-2008 school year to design a *New Horizons* program. Ms. Danziger plans on returning for the 2008-2009 school year.

430-06
Personnel
Leave of
Absence

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
continued

431-06
Personnel
Appointment

Motion by Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mrs. McCusker, to approve the appointment of **Shawn Biederwolf**, as Night Custodian at Mountain Lakes High School effective May 7, 2007 at a salary of \$34,549 Step 8.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Boertzel advised that she and Mr. Gniewek reviewed the requests received from Board members for committee assignments. Consideration was given as to whether or not the PEAK/Gifted & Talented Committee should be a separate committee or become part of Program Committee.

Discussion took place. It was noted that one advantage of separate committees is that it provides more opportunities for Board members to participate in educational issues. There are other committees that could possibly be eliminated as separate committees and made part of the Program Committee, but it was noted that one of the reasons the Special Education and G&T committees were formed was that there were some areas that were not receiving adequate attention by the Program Committee. The PEAK/Gifted & Talented committee only meets four times a year so it is not a burden on the members. It was also suggested to elevate the ad hoc Community Relations Committee to regular committee status.

With regard to the liaison positions it was noted that the Borough liaison and the Grant Action Committee liaison could be eliminated. The Lakers Sports liaison can be eliminated when the turf field is completed.

It was suggested Committee Chairs put together a proposed schedule of committee meetings for the coming year and that the schedule of the committee meetings be made available to the public.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Prusina advised that he has discussed with the Township Manager what will be required for the Board to do in connection with the turf field including obtaining of permits and a presentation to the Planning Board with notification to residents within 200 feet.. This has been put on the Planning Board agenda for May 17th.

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COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM MLEA PRESIDENT

Ms. Hussein had no further comments.

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Stokes, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to adopt a Resolution to enter into Closed Session for the discussion of legal, personnel and/or contract negotiation issues. Resolution was duly read and the Board entered into Executive Session at 9:40 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Mr. Munday left the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

PUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Mrs. Wall, seconded by Mr. Gniewek, to enter Public Session at 10:04 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Wall, seconded by Mr. Gniewek, to adopt the attached lists of Board of Education Committees and Board Delegates for the 2007-2008 school year.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Wall, seconded by Mr. Gniewek, that meeting be adjourned at 10:06 p.m.

Motion carried 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel A. Borgo
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Regina Giardina, Stenographer

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Meetings of the Mountain Lakes Board of Education

<u>Date</u>	<u>Type of Meeting</u>	<u>Place</u>
May 21, 2007	Regular Meeting	Mountain Lakes High School (7:30 p.m.)
June 4, 2007	Regular Meeting	Mountain Lakes High School (7:30 p.m.)
June 18, 2007	Regular Meeting	Mountain Lakes High School (7:30 p.m.)