

MOUNTAIN LAKES BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Monday, February 6, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Mountain Lakes Borough Board of Education was held on Monday, February 6, 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
 Mrs. Brennan
 Mrs. Dawson
 Mr. Gniewek
 Mrs. Lareau
 Mrs. McCusker
 Mr. Munday
 Mr. Stokes
 Mrs. Wall
 Mrs. Pascarella, Boonton Township Representative (8:05)
 David Dobrosky, Student Representative

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.

PRESENTATION

Dr. Kazmark presented the latest version of the proposed 2006-2007 district calendar. The proposed calendar provides that all the schools will start on the same date, September 11, 2006 and close on June 21, 2007.

APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
February 6, 2006

Discussion took place regarding the proposed calendar and the alternate plans being contemplated in the event that the September 11 deadline is not met.

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM THE MLEA PRESIDENT

Amal Hussein thanked Dr. Kazmark and the Board for taking the concerns of MLEA into account in creating the calendar. She advised that most of the calendar is acceptable to the MLEA and they particularly like the fact that the schools are opening at the same time and that the two full week vacations are included.

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Fred Kanter noted that he first attended a Board of Education meeting 20 years ago and at that time the Board's policy manual was out of date. He noted that at this point much of the manual has been brought up to date. Mr. Kanter further noted that the notices of meetings of the Board were not listed in the Fall of 2005 nor posted on the Borough Bulletin Board and the minutes being considered by the Board were not available for the public. He stated that the minutes and the notices of meetings do not conform to the laws of the State of New Jersey. Mr. Kanter also commented with regard to the district's gifted and talented policy and the failure of the district to adhere to the requirements for testing.

Renee Wass commented with regard to the proposed school calendar. She noted that she is happy with keeping all the schools on the same schedule for opening.

Fred Kanter commented with regard to the mention of the brand of chicken nuggets sold in the school cafeteria and said he considers this to be an intrusion.

REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

David Dobrosky advised that the SGA constitution committee is continuing its work. In sports, the two basketball teams won their last Morris County Tournament games, the ice hockey team is playing tonight, the girls' swimming team lost by only ½ point and the boys' swimming team won in the Morris County Championships. The SGA is planning a Valentine's Day fundraising activity and a Teacher's Day in March.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mrs. Lareau, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 16, 2006 as presented.

Motion carried 9-0.

APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
February 6, 2006

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES continued

Motion by Mrs. Lareau, seconded by Mrs. Dawson, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of January 16, 2006 as presented.

Motion carried 9-0.

Mrs. Pascarella arrived at the meeting (8:05 p.m.)

Motion by Mrs. Lareau, seconded by Mr. Gniewek to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 23, 2006 as presented.

Motion carried 10-0.

Motion by Mr. Stokes, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of January 23, 2006 with the following correction:

Page 2, add Mr. before Sean Dolan.

Motion carried 10-0.

Motion by Mr. Stokes, seconded by Mrs. Lareau, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 30, 2006 as presented.

Motion carried 9-0-1(Abstain-Mrs. Dawson).

Motion by Mr. Stokes, seconded by Mrs. Lareau, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of January 30, 2006 as presented.

Motion carried 9-0-1(Abstain-Mrs. Dawson).

COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Rader advised that there is a delay in the Governor's budget message and there is a question as to whether the school election will be held as scheduled.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. McCusker noted that at the self-evaluation meeting it was decided that committee reports would be split into two groups with one group reporting at one of each of the monthly meetings. However, since the Board did not have committee reports at its last meeting this practice will start with the next meeting of the Board.

APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
February 6, 2006

COMMITTEE REPORTS continued

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Stokes reported that the committee is working on the budget and attempting to keep the increase in operating costs and school-related tax increase to 3%.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Boertzel reported that the committee met and discussed the Director of Guidance position for which an advertisement has been run. The committee also had some preliminary discussions in preparation for the review of non-tenured administrators.

Discussion took place regarding the replacement for the Business Administrator position. Dr. Kazmark advised that an ad will be run in the next few weeks with a view toward filling the position by May or June.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Mrs. Boertzel advised that the committee met with Mr. Prusina and he provided information on the progress of a list of projects.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR/ATHLETICS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Brennan advised that the committee met with Mr. Cresbaugh and Mrs. Russo regarding the workshop they attended on the subject of drug testing. They will be making a presentation to the Board on this issue. A new drug survey will be conducted in the fall and drug testing will take place some time in the 2007-2008 school year.

Discussion took place regarding the issue of drug testing and it was noted that while there is not a great concern about an existing problem, the purpose of testing is as a deterrent. Dr. Kazmark advised that there will be a public meeting scheduled through the Home and School Association to discuss the proposed survey and the proactive things being done and planned in the school.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Dawson advised that the committee is continuing its efforts to produce a policy manual that the community can be proud of. Mrs. Dawson noted that the policies presented for first reading tonight are replacements for existing policies that New Jersey School Boards identified as needing review.

APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
February 6, 2006

COMMITTEE REPORTS continued

Discussion took place regarding the volunteer policy with respect to the requirement for TB testing, fingerprinting, etc. The committee will review this policy more closely and it will be revised for second reading.

GIFTED AND TALENTED COMMITTEE

Mrs. Lareau advised that the committee had a presentation by Dr. Kazmark and Mrs. Kielley on where the district is going in the areas of curriculum, differentiation of instruction and the options that are available to gifted and talented students and students who are advanced in their learning. The committee requested that a presentation be made to the full Board on these issues. Dr. Kazmark advised that this presentation will be scheduled on March 6.

SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Wall advised that the committee met and reviewed the filmed version of the Eric Fox transition program that was conducted at Briarcliff and the High School. The committee also reviewed the work of Janet Wright and the special education teachers to develop written curriculum that would be used with the program. The parents of the students who were in the video were invited to attend a screening of the video on January 31 and they were very impressed. The next step will be to integrate this into the program for classified students as they move into the high school and transition into adulthood.

SPECIAL EDUCATION FORUM

Mrs. Wall advised that the next meeting is scheduled at 12:30 on February 14 in the Child Study Team Office at Wildwood and there will be a screening and discussion of a video about growing up with a disability. A program is scheduled on March 14, 7:30 in the high school library by Goldi Ellis of the Department of Health and Human Services on the subject of transition planning for developmentally disabled students moving into adulthood. There is no program scheduled in April because of spring break. The May program will be a presentation by Fran Micelli.

MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE

Mrs. Brennan advised that a Sadie Hawkins Day event is planned for March 17 and Jello Wrestling is planned for May 19. Mrs. Russo attended the last meeting and discussed drug testing. Officer Bolinski has become an active member of the Alliance.

APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
February 6, 2006

COMMITTEE REPORTS continued

HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Mrs. Brennan advised that the Fit for Life Committee gave an excellent presentation but the meeting was not very well attended.

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

Mr. Gniewek advised that the committee is awaiting the report from the engineer. Dr. Kazmark advised that he met with the architect and there is an understanding of what the flow of traffic will be. There is a question as to how much of the area can be paved. The goal is to have a realistic plan that will not be impossible to implement without any major change in the cost of the project.

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Mrs. Boertzel advised that the Foundation met and approved two new grants for the defibrillator at Wildwood and for a League of Women Voters program to encourage high school girls to run for political office. A fundraising band program on March 4 is being planned in conjunction with the Boonton Township Educational Foundation.

BOONTON TOWNSHIP REPORT

Mrs. Pascarella advised that Boonton Township is working on providing the numbers for projected students for next year. Dr. Rader advised that he has received the information.

**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. Lareau, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve the acceptance of a cash gift in the amount of \$5,500 from the Laker Sports Club. These funds are to be used toward the purchase of two Spectrum Basketball Scoreboards with signs, for Mountain Lakes High School. The Board contribution will be \$3,500, for a total of \$9,000 including installation and freight charges.

221-05
Acceptance
of Gift

A note will be sent to the Lakers Sports Club expressing the Board's gratitude for this gift.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
February 6, 2006

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

Motion by Mr. Stokes, seconded by Mrs. Wall, that the Board Secretary's Report for the month of December 2005, 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.

222-05
Board
Secretary's
Report

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mr. Stokes, seconded by Mrs. Dawson, that the Report of the Treasurer of School Moneys for the month of December 2005 be approved.

223-05
Treasurer of
School
Moneys
Report

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mr. Stokes, seconded by Mrs. Dawson, that the attached transfers from anticipated surplus funds in designated line items of the 2005-2006 Budget to anticipated over expended line items of the 2005-2006 Budget in the amounts and accounts as indicated be approved.

224-05
Transfers

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mr. Stokes, seconded by Mrs. Dawson, that the Current Check Register (Bills List) for the month of January 2006, be approved for payment in the amount of \$3,766,058.21.

225-05
Check
Register

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Wall, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, to approve Jeff Keith, retired Mountain Lakes School District teacher, to drive the school bus as needed, for the Ski Team, contingent upon continuation of possession of a valid CDL license with P endorsement for driving children. Jeff is the Ski Team coach.

226-05
Approval
School Bus
Driver

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Kazmark discussed the recent information published in the newspaper with regard to the State Report Card and the cost per pupil in Mountain Lakes. The per pupil figure reported is incorrect as a result of the inclusion of the Lake Drive tuition students. He will be distributing materials to the Board members to assist them in answering questions from members of the public on this subject. Mr. Stokes advised that this issue was

APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
February 6, 2006

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
continued

discussed by the Finance Committee. Dr. Kazmark will work with the committee and the Business Administrator to further clarify this issue.

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

227-05
Tuition
Reimbursement

Kathleen Finley High School	Rutgers University	Administration & Supervision	3 credits
Michael Polashenski High School	East Stroudsburg Univ.	IS: Field Botany	3 credits
Jeff Santoro High School	Rutgers University	Masters Research in Music Ed Wind Ensemble Chamber Ensemble	3 credits 1 credit 1 credit
Douglas Mattoon Briarcliff	Kean University	Computer Applications in Educational Administration	3 credits

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Wall, seconded by Mrs. Lareau, to approve the appointment of Marybeth Schumann as a substitute teacher for the district. Mrs. Schumann was interviewed and recommended by Mrs. Sakala.

228-05
Personnel
Appointment

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Lareau, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to accept the retirement/resignation of Katherine Tilley, Librarian at Lake Drive School, effective July 1, 2006, with appreciation for her 16 years of service.

229-05
Personnel
Retirement/
Resignation

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Lareau, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to accept the retirement/resignation of Ann O'Connell, Secretary to the Superintendent, effective September 1, 2006, with appreciation for her 23 years of service.

230-05
Personnel
Retirement/
Resignation

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
February 6, 2006

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
continued

Motion by Mrs. Lareau, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to accept the resignation of Tricia Monteyne, teacher at Wildwood School, effective June 30, 2006 with appreciation for her years of service. Mrs. Monteyne has been on an extended leave of absence of the 2005-2006 school year.

231-05
Personnel
Retirement

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Lareau, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, to approve a maternity/child care leave of absence for Karen Manning, paraprofessional at Lake Drive School, effective April 4, 2006. Mrs. Manning will be on paid leave through April 30, 2006 and is eligible for health benefits as provided under FMLA and NJFLA. Mrs. Manning plans to return to her position on May 22, 2006.

232-05
Personnel
Maternity/Child
Care Leave

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Lareau, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, to approve the appointment of Nancy Wood as a maternity leave replacement teacher at Wildwood School effective March 13, 2006, at a per diem salary of 1/200th of BA Step 1. Ms. Wood will be replacing Allison Murphy.

233-05
Personnel
Appointment

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Lareau, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, to approve the appointment of Jane Cassaras as a maternity leave replacement teacher at Mountain Lakes High School effective January 31, 2006, at a per diem salary of 1/200th of BA Step 1. Ms. Cassaras will be replacing Natasha Guardabasco.

234-05
Personnel
Appointment

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Lareau, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, to approve the extra-pay appointment of Debbie Merian as an aide for a student to participate in the Briarcliff School play effective January 16 through April 1, 2006, at the rate of \$20.00 per hour.

235-05
Personnel
Extra-Pay
Appointment

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0-1 (Abstain-Mrs. Wall).

Motion by Mrs. Lareau, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, to approve an overnight field trip to Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf, Trenton, NJ for Lake Drive students to participate in an annual basketball tournament. Dates of trip: Mar. 1-3, 2006. Cost per student: \$0. Number of students: 21. Chaperones: Coleen Buckley, Paul Carlough and Kristin Gates.

236-05
Overnight
Field Trip

APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
February 6, 2006

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
continued

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Lareau, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, to approve an overnight field trip to Virginia School for the Deaf, Saunton, VA for Lake Drive students to participate in the Mid-Atlantic Regional Competition for the Deaf Academic Bowl. Dates of trip: Mar. 30 – Apr. 2, 2006. Cost per student: \$0. Number of students: 5. Chaperones: Diane Hewitt and Marion Clark.

237-05
Overnight
Field Trip

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Lareau, seconded by Mrs. Dawson, to approve home instruction for #05-107, Grade 11, at St. Clare's Hospital, effective immediately for approximately two weeks. St. Clare's will provide instruction at an hourly rate of \$44.00.

238-05
Home
Instruction

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Lareau, seconded by Mrs. Dawson, to approve reimbursement to the attached list of High School personnel in accordance with Policy #9250 – Travel and Related Expenses.

239-05
Personnel
Reimbursements
Approval

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Lareau, seconded by Mrs. Dawson, to approve reimbursement to the attached list of personnel in accordance with Policy #9250 – Travel and Related Expenses.

240-05
Personnel
Reimbursements
Approval

Discussion took place and it was requested that the reimbursements include a statement of why this is necessary for educational goals. Dr. Rader and Dr. Kazmark will work on improving the forms for the reimbursement requests.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0 (Mrs. Pascarella abstained with respect to reimbursements for non-high school personnel).

Motion by Mrs. Lareau, seconded by Mrs. Dawson, to approve the out-of-district placement for #05-107 to attend the Kiel School, Kinnelon, NJ in the pre-school program, effective immediately, at a tuition rate of \$14,000 pro-rated.

241-05
Out-of-District
Placement

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
February 6, 2006

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
continued

Motion by Mrs. Lareau, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, to accept the resignation of Michele Handy, paraprofessional at Lake Drive School, effective February 7, 2006 with appreciation for her years of service.

242-05
Personnel
Resignation

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Lareau, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, to approve the appointment of Melanie Mossack as a Speech/Language Therapist at Lake Drive School effective February 7, 2006 at a salary of \$44,981 MA Step 1 pro-rated.

243-05
Personnel
Appointment

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Lareau, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, to approve the appointment of Gail Tornquist as a Sign Language Interpreter for Lake Drive School at a pro-rated salary of \$37,013 Step 1, effective immediately. Gail will replace Amber Coble who resigned while on maternity leave.

244-05
Personnel
Appointment

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Lareau, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, to approve the 2006-2007 school calendar identified as Draft 4 presented by Dr. Kazmark that provides for a student start date of September 11, 2006 and last day of school and graduation on June 21, 2007.

245-05
2006-2007
School
Calendar

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. McCusker thanked the Board members for the interesting and thought-provoking self evaluation meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion took place with regard to the recent article in the Mountaineer in which the students expressed their opposition to the plus/minus grading system. Dr. Kazmark advised that the students were the only group polled that had reservations about the grading system. The Administration is still in the process of working on this system and Mr. Ludwig will be making a recommendation to the Program Committee in the Spring. It was suggested that the students' opinions be considered in the process.

APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
February 6, 2006

NEW BUSINESS

With regard to the request for a surface for lacrosse practice prior to the beginning of the season, Mr. Prusina advised that the tennis courts across from the high school will be used on a one-month trial basis.

Discussion took place regarding the use of the brand name for the chicken served in the cafeteria. It was noted that this is inappropriate and Dr. Rader will have the situation corrected.

Discussion took place regarding the availability of unapproved minutes to the public. Dr. Kazmark advised that they are available on the website and it was suggested that copies also be made available to the public at the meetings.

An update was requested on the financial status of the referendum project. Dr. Kazmark advised that Parette Somjen will make a presentation to the Board at the March 6 meeting.

Board members inspected samples of the carpeting for the high school media center and will advise Dr. Kazmark of their recommendations.

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Munday, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, that meeting be adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

Motion carried 10-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C. Rader
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Regina Giardina, Stenographer

APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
February 6, 2006

Meetings of the Mountain Lakes Board of Education

<u>Date</u>	<u>Type of Meeting</u>	<u>Place</u>
February 13, 2006	Regular Meeting	Mountain Lakes High School (7:30 p.m.)
March 6, 2006	Regular Meeting	Mountain Lakes High School (7:30 p.m.)
March 27, 2006 (Public Hearing)	Regular Meeting	Mountain Lakes High School (7:30 p.m.)