

MOUNTAIN LAKES BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Monday, December 11, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Mountain Lakes Borough Board of Education was held on Monday, December 11, 2006 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
 Mrs. Lio, Boonton Township 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.

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Members of the public including Elaine Boyle, Nichole Ray, Therese Triumph, Bob Sheasby, Steve Boyle and Eva Campbell, commented with regard to the proposed electronic sign to be erected at the high school. The following points were raised:

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COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC continued

- The Board should consider the impact of the sign on the town.
- The town has strict signage laws.
- People who ran fundraisers were not aware that funds were being raised for the sign.
- Concern was expressed about the impact of the sign on traffic.
- The sign should not be inconsistent with the Master Plan and should not have excessive lighting.
- This kind of sign will set a precedent that will affect the town for a long time.
- The high school is beautiful and this kind of sign will not add anything to that.
- The sign will not improve communications because only the students will see it.
- If the Board wants to improve communications they should work on the website.

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

Mrs. McCusker noted that the members of the public seem to know more about this proposed sign than the Board members do. She advised that this topic has not previously been discussed by the Board.

Dr. Kazmark stated that on November 30 a number of community members took the time and came and met with him and Mr. Ludwig to discuss their concerns about the proposed sign. The plans for a sign are on hold for an indefinite period. He has driven around town and observed that there are very few lit signs in town. The concept of having some kind of electronic sign at the high school had been discussed in broad terms, a conduit had been installed and some funds had been earmarked for such a project but no definite proposals had been made. The Board has not been involved with this except for the recent correspondence received from the community. The idea of the sign will be postponed pending further discussion with the community.

Further discussion took place among the Board and the following points were raised in response to comments from the public:

- A commitment has been made to upgrade the district's website.
- The funds raised by the pasta dinner go to the student government and they distribute it. There may have been some discussion of funds being set aside for a sign.
- This is an instance where the community was ahead of the Board.
- This issue was discussed by the Facilities Committee.

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CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 20, 2006 with the following correction:

Page 3, add after paragraph 3: There were no other members of the public who wished to address the Board and the meeting was closed to public.

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

Motion by Mrs. Wall, seconded by Mrs. Dawson, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of November 20, 2006.

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

Motion by Mr. Munday, seconded by Mr. Gniewek, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting/Board Retreat of November 27, 2006 with the following correction:

Page 5, paragraph 2, change to ...in favor of considering further opportunities.

Motion carried 10-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Kazmark advised that the State Superintendents' Association has been discussing the motions and bills brought forward in the legislature and the potential impact of the legislation that will be enacted. He will keep the Board informed on this issue.

Mrs. McCusker advised that she and Dr. Kazmark will be participating as presenters at a New Jersey School Boards day-long seminar on the topic of student achievement.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Stokes advised that the committee met and discussed the 3% target for cost increases in preparation of the budget. The audit on the agenda for approval was discussed as well as software for determination of costs per student.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS continued

SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Wall advised that an ad hoc committee comprised of district constituents met and discussed the objective of the Long Range Educational Plan to develop an assessment system that would dovetail with differentiated instruction.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Dawson advised that the committee has presented for first reading policies in the administrative area. The committee also reviewed the teaching staff series of policies and will be consolidating some of them and discussing them further in January.

SPECIAL EDUCATION FORUM

Mrs. Wall advised that there will be a program at the high school library tomorrow night on the topic "Last One Picked, First One Picked On" followed by discussion.

NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Mrs. Dawson reported on the proposed changes to the Bylaws. She advised that any substantive changes were turned down.

MORRIS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Mr. Stokes reported that the meeting on the topic of pending legislation was very informative even though it focused on the uncertainty of the legislation. There will be a recommendation coming from the Association for school boards to adopt a resolution for or against the legislation.

LAKER SPORTS

Mrs. Boertzel advised that the fundraising efforts are moving along and there is also discussion taking place regarding potential financing if the goal is not reached in time for the field to be done this fall.

MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE

Mrs. Brennan advised that tomorrow there is a county recreation meeting and the topic to be discussed is partnering with municipal alliances to work together to provide opportunities for children and senior citizens.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS continued

GRANT ACTION

Mrs. Brennan advised that the district did not get a security grant that was applied for.

AD HOC COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Ms. Wolfe advised that she and Dr. Kazmark have had several conversations concerning the website. They are working on trying to fix it and remove old and incorrect information.

BOONTON TOWNSHIP REPORT

Mrs. Lio reported that the Board had a lengthy discussion on the subject of middle school sports. The house tour to benefit the funds for Smart Boards was well attended.

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

Motion by Mr. Stokes, seconded by Mrs. Dawson, to recognize that the 2005-2006 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Management Report on Administrative Findings for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006 were discussed and accepted with the attached Corrective Action Plan.

206-06
CAFR

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve a 5-year lease renewal between the Mountain Lakes School District and Xerox Corporation for copiers at Mountain Lakes High School as per attached. Old cost \$2,816.65 per month, new cost \$2,737.31 per month, resulting in a savings of \$79.34 per month.

207-06
Copier
Lease
Renewal

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Boertzel, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, to approve the attached Resolution to establish a Governmental 457 (b) Compensation Plan for employees of the Mountain Lakes School District in conjunction with those already approved 403 (b) plans effective January 1, 2007.

208-06
457b Plan

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mr. Gniewek, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, that the Board Secretary's Report for the month of September 2006, under the GAAP format, be approved, noting that this

209-06
Board
Secretary's
Report

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

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.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mr. Gniewek, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, that the Report of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of September 2006 be approved. 210-06
Treasurer's
Report

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mr. Gniewek, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, that the transfers from anticipated surplus funds in designated line items of the 2006-2007 Budget to anticipated over expended line items of the 2006-2007 Budget in the amounts and accounts as indicated be approved. Be it also resolved that the attached 2006-2007 transfer history spreadsheet be approved through 9/30/06. 211-06
Transfers

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Wall, seconded by Mr. Gniewek, that the Current Check Register (Bills List) for the month of September 2006, be approved for payment in the amount of \$531,086.87. 212-06
Bills List

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0 (Mrs. Dawson abstained from 06-1303 and Mr. Munday abstained from 06-0093 and 06-0573).

Motion by Mrs. Wall, seconded by Mr. Gniewek, that the Current Check Register (Bills List) for the month of October 2006, be approved for payment in the amount of \$2,975,628.40. 213-06
Bills List

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 109-0.

Motion by Mrs. Wall, seconded by Mrs. Dawson, to approve the attached Resolution to submit a Grant Application for the Governor's Initiative on Autism to the State Department of Education, in the amount of \$125,000, starting on April 1, 2007 and ending on June 30, 2008. 214-06
Grant
Application

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Motion by Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, to approve the following course(s) for tuition reimbursement when the course has been completed and the transcript received by the Superintendent's office: 215-06
Tuition
Reimburse-
ment

Jeanette Meyer Wildwood	Montclair State University	Studio Ceramics Independent Study	3 credits 3 credits
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Noreen Lazariuk ML High School	Montclair State University	Strategies for Curr. Change The Clinical Supervision	3 credits 3 credits
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Kathleen Finley ML High School	Rutgers University	Supervision of Instruction	3 credits
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Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, to approve the following course(s) for tuition reimbursement when the course has been completed and the transcript received by the Superintendent's office: 216-06
Tuition
Reimburse-
ment

Janet Wright CST	NJ Excel	Principal/Director Certification	20 credits
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Patricia Filiaci Lake Drive	U. of N.Carolina	Normal Aspects of Speech Language Literacy Development in Young Children	3 credits 3 credits
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Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, to approve the horizontal movement on the salary guide from MA to MA30 for **Madelene Hoffman**, teacher at Lake Drive, effective February 1, 2007. 217-06
Horizontal
Movement
On Salary
Guide

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, to approve reimbursement to the attached list of Wildwood School personnel in accordance with Policy #9250 – Travel and Related Expenses. 218-06
Reimburse-
ment
Approval

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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
continued

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

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

219-06
Reimburse-
ment
Approval

Board members again expressed concern that these approvals are being given after the expenditure. Dr. Kazmark will again remind the administrators that these must be submitted on a timely basis.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Wall, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, to approve the following list of coaches for the 2006-2007 winter athletic season.

Steve Feltman	JV Wrestling	Step 1, Year 1 \$3,330
Mark Lio	JV Ice Hockey	Step 1, Year 1 \$3,330

220-06
Personnel-
Extra Pay
Appointment

Motion carried by roll call vote 8-0-2 (Abstain-Mrs. Dawson, Mrs. Lio).

Motion by Mrs. Wall, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, to approve an increase in time for **Susan Bessin**, English teacher at Wildwood, from 100% to 120% at an additional total cost of \$7925, to accommodate 3 new ESL, effective January 12, 2007 to June 2007.

221-06
Increase in
Time

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Wall, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, to approve a maternity/child care leave of absence for **Suzi Brassard**, Art Teacher at Mountain Lakes High School, effective January 8, 2007. Ms. Brassard will be on paid leave through March 9th and is eligible for health benefits as provided under FMLA and NJFLA through May 31, 2007. Ms. Brassard plans on returning to work for the 2007-2008 school year.

222-06
Maternity
Child Care
Leave

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Wall, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, to approve a maternity/child care leave of absence for **Kelly Scorsune**, Special Ed Teacher at Mountain Lakes High School, effective November 27, 2006. Ms. Scorsune will be on paid leave through January 3rd and is eligible for health benefits as provided under FMLA and NJFLA through May 31, 2007. Ms. Scorsune plans on returning to work in January 2008.

223-06
Maternity
Child Care
Leave

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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. Brennan, to approve a maternity/child care leave of absence for **Otilia Williams**, Speech & Language Pathologist at Lake Drive School, effective January 2, 2007. Ms. Williams will be on paid leave through March 5th and is eligible for health benefits as provided under FMLA and NJFLA. Ms. Williams plans on returning to work May 1, 2007. 224-06
Maternity
Child Leave

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mrs. Boertzel, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve the appointment of **Frank Caprara, Jr.**, as a substitute teacher for the 2006-2007 school year, pending certification completion and New Jersey Criminal Background check. Mr. Caprara was interviewed and recommended by Steve Ryan. 225-06
Personnel –
Substitute
Appointment

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Boertzel, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve the appointment of **Erin Mitschke**, as a substitute teacher for the 2006-2007 school year. Ms. Mitschke was interviewed and recommended by Lew Ludwig. 226-06
Personnel –
Substitute
Appointment

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Boertzel, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve the appointment of **Lisa Kelly** as a Special Ed. Teacher at Mountain Lakes High School, effective December 12, 2006 through June 21, 2007 at BA Step 1, at an annual cost of \$41,838, pro-rated at 1/200th per diem (\$209.19 a day/\$25,312 total). Ms. Kelly will replace Ms. Scorsune while she is on maternity leave. 227-06
Personnel -
Appointment

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Boertzel reported on a policy being implemented at Pompton Lakes High School for breath testing at every high school event.

Mr. Munday discussed an appellate division case involving the issue of damages for failure to implement IEPs.

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COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Bob Sheasby commented on the pending legislation with respect to property taxes and expressed concern that the community is not aware of the effect this legislation will have on our schools. Mr. Sheasby asked what action the Board proposed to do to get the information out to the public.

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

Discussion took place regarding the issue commented on by Mr. Sheasby and the following points were raised:

- Information is being received by the district from organizations such as the School Boards Association, Garden State Coalition.
- There was a meeting held on these issues last week at Morristown High School.
- The League of Women Voters is meeting tomorrow on the topic of consolidation. The League would be a good means of communicating with the public.
- The last newsletter from the New Jersey School Boards Association has been forwarded to Home & School for reporting in the Bulletin.
- There is extensive coverage of the subject in the newspapers.
- A letter on behalf of the Board should be sent to the Governor and legislators expressing the Board's concerns.
- It was suggested that a letter be sent to the community by the Board President and Dr. Kazmark on this issue.
- A community ad hoc committee could be formed for this issue.

The consensus was in favor of a letter to the Governor and legislators. Dr. Kazmark will draft such a letter and circulate it to the Board members for comment and then it will be sent out to the community.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Munday, seconded by Mr. Gniewek, that meeting be adjourned at 9:46 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>
January 2, 2007	Regular Meeting	Mountain Lakes High School (7:30 p.m.)
January 11, 2007	BOE/MLEA Winter Party	Zeri's Inn Route 46 East Mountain Lakes, NJ (3 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.)
January 15, 2007	Regular Meeting	Mountain Lakes High School (7:30 p.m.)