

MOUNT PLEASANT COTTAGE SCHOOL UFSD
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, January 22, 2024

1. Opening Items

1.1 Call to Order

The Board of Education meeting of the Mount Pleasant Cottage School Union Free School District was called to order by Mrs. Rita Golden, Board of Education President at 7:32 pm.

1.2 Roll Call

Board Members Present: Mrs. Golden, Mrs. Irwin, Mr. Carter, Mr. John, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Naidich, Mrs. Spieler, Mrs. Stein
Also Present: Mr. Beovich, Dr. Torres, Mr. Baier, Mr. Hearn, Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Nolan, Mr. Rubbo, Ms. Witkovich, Ms. Panzanaro, Ms. Behzadi, Ms. Beers, Ms. Kleinman

2. Appointment of Board of Education Member

2.1 Appointment of Board of Education Member

The Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Cottage School Union Free School District appointed Mr. Marc Carter for a three (3) year term, effective 1/3/2024 through 1/2/2027.
(Oath of Office to be taken at a later date).

Motion: Mrs. Irwin

Second: Mrs. Spieler

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Mrs. Golden, Mrs. Irwin, Mr. John, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Naidich, Mrs. Spieler, Mrs. Stein

3. Correspondence

3.1 Claims Audit Report

Mr. Rubbo shared with the Board Members Andrea Aitken's Claim Report for claims paid by the District between November 1, 2023 and November 30, 2023.

4. Meeting Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes of the December 11, 2023 Board of Education Meeting

The Board of Education approved the minutes of the December 11, 2023 Board of Education Meeting.

Motion: Mr. Carter

Second: Mr. John

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Mrs. Golden, Mrs. Irwin, Mr. Carter, Mr. John, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Naidich, Mrs. Spieler, Mrs. Stein

4.2 Approval of Minutes of the January 2, 2024 Special Board of Education Meeting

The Board of Education approved the minutes of the January 2, 2024 Special Board of Education Meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Spieler

Second: Dr. Naidich

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Mrs. Golden, Mrs. Irwin, Mr. Carter, Mr. John, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Naidich, Mrs. Spieler, Mrs. Stein

5. Superintendent's Report

5.1 Census Report

Superintendent Beovich updated the Board with the current Census information.

5.2 Recognition of Tenure Candidate

Dr. Torres provided a tenure recommendation for Ms. Dawn Behzadi who is being presented for tenure at this board meeting.

5.3 District Update

Superintendent Beovich spoke about his tenure with the District and thanked the Board and Administration for their support. In addition, Board members shared their appreciation and thanks with Superintendent Beovich and wished him

well.

6. Board Policies

6.1 Policy 5220 - District Investments

The Board conducted a first reading of Policy 5220 - District Investments.

6.2 Policy 6190 - Workplace Violence Prevention Policy Statement

The Board of Education conducted a first reading of Policy 6190 - Workplace Violence Prevention Policy Statement and the Board of Education, in accordance with Policy 1410, waived the second reading of Policy 6190 - Workplace Violence Prevention Policy Statement and adopted Policy 6190 effective January 22, 2024, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Stein

Second: Mr. Carter

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Mrs. Golden, Mrs. Irwin, Mr. Carter, Mr. John, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Naidich, Mrs. Spieler, Mrs. Stein

6.3 Policy 7440 - Student Voter Registration and Pre-Registration

The Board of Education conducted a second reading and adopted Policy 7440 - Student Voter Registration and Pre Registration.

Motion: Dr. Naidich

Second: Mr. John

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Mrs. Golden, Mrs. Irwin, Mr. Carter, Mr. John, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Naidich, Mrs. Spieler, Mrs. Stein

6.4 Policy 4420 - Compensation and Related Benefits

The Board of Education conducted a second reading and approved Policy 4420 - Compensation and Related Benefits.

Motion: Mrs. Spieler

Second: Mrs. Stein

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Mrs. Golden, Mrs. Irwin, Mr. Carter, Mr. John, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Naidich, Mrs. Spieler, Mrs. Stein

7. Business Matters

7.1 Approval of Business Matters Consent Items

With the consent of the Board, Mrs. Golden took items 7.2 through 7.20 under one motion.

7.2 Treasurer's Report General Fund Checking, Trust and Agency Account and Federal Fund Checking Account

The Treasurer's Report General Fund Checking, Trust and Agency Account and Federal Fund Checking Account for the period of November 1, 2023 through November 30, 2023 were accepted.

7.3 Check Runs

The check runs for the period of November 1, 2023 through November 30, 2023 were accepted as recommended by the subcommittee from:

#XX506 through #XX581 in the amount of \$833,976.29.

7.4 Approval of Budget Transfers

The Board of Education approved the attached budget transfers for the 2023-2024 school year.

7.5 Emergency Resolution for Suspension of the Bid Law Requirements for Sewer Pipe Replacement at Edenwald School

WHEREAS, there had been emergency sewer line break in the district; and WHEREAS, the District's buildings and facilities must be functional with operating waste lines for the health and safety of the public; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in light of the sewer line break and its effects, and the circumstances described above, the Board of Education hereby recognizes an ongoing health and safety emergency that warrants the need to utilize the services of an outside contractor to clean, find, excavate and repair the sewer line break on an immediate and emergency basis, for the health, safety and welfare of the students and staff in the District, thereby justifying the suspension of the bid law requirements of General Municipal Law §103, as permitted by General Municipal Law §103 (4) on the basis of emergency needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby ratifies the actions of the Superintendent of Schools and Assistant Superintendent for Business in soliciting and accepting the proposal from Sewer Hero's Inc. for \$12,500 dated

December 19, 2023, for excavating in front of school to remove and replace broken section of existing sewer main. This includes all proper permits and insurance coverage naming the school district as additional insured as presented to the Board at this meeting.

7.6 Emergency Resolution for Suspension of the Bid Law Requirements to Replace Entry Doors at Mount Pleasant Cottage School

WHEREAS, the main entry double doors to the Mt. Pleasant Cottage School Building, are fiberglass doors that have been compromised by age and wear, and recently, students were able to open them, without a key through the use of force, and thereby require an emergency replacement; and WHEREAS, the District's buildings and facilities must be functional with operating safe and secure entry and exit doors; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in light of the compromised entry doors safety and resulting impact on the safety and security of students and staff, as described above, the Board of Education hereby recognizes an ongoing health and safety emergency that warrants the need to utilize the services of an outside contractor to replace the double set of entry doors at the MPCS School Building on an immediate and emergency basis, for the health, safety and welfare of the students and staff in the District, thereby justifying the suspension of the bid law requirements of General Municipal Law §103, as permitted by General Municipal Law §103 (4), on the basis of emergency needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby ratifies the actions of the Superintendent of Schools and Assistant Superintendent for Business in soliciting and accepting the proposal from Mace Contracting Corporation for \$26,000 dated December 26, 2023, for Emergency Replacement of Exterior Double Door Opening. This includes removal of existing door and frame and replacement with new frame, doors, hardware, glazing, including grouting of frame and painting and naming the school district as additional insured as presented to the Board at this meeting.

7.7 Resolution Regarding Purchase Order for Police Security

WHEREAS, the School District is in need of additional security at the school buildings on an immediate basis to ensure the safety and security of students, staff and visitors to the schools, and the Town of Mount Pleasant Police Department is willing and able to provide two police officers to the School District for this purpose on an hourly basis for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby engages the services of two Town of Mount Pleasant police officers on each school day when officers are available, at the hourly rate of \$177 per hour, effective January 2, 2024 through June 26, 2024, and ratifies the actions of the Superintendent of Schools and Assistant Superintendent for Business in ensuring that there have been Town of Mount Pleasant police officers at the School District beginning January 2, 2024 prior to Board action.

7.8 Amended Ordinary Contingent Expense/Emergency Resolution

WHEREAS, at the Board of Education Meeting on December 12, 2022, the Board approved a resolution declaring the replacement of a boiler at the Mount Pleasant Cottage School ("School"), an ordinary contingent expense and emergency, and authorizing the use of general fund money to pay for the costs of the boiler replacement, and now wishes to amend such resolution to change the source of funds to pay for the boiler replacement to federal funds; and WHEREAS, the Board of Education hereby readopts the substance of the ordinary contingent expense/emergency resolution with the revised funding source; and WHEREAS, there are two boilers at the Mount Pleasant Cottage School ("School"), both of which are old, dating back to 1984, manufactured by a company that has been out of business since 2009, one of which boilers has been leaking; and WHEREAS, upon investigation by the District's Architect, BBS Architects, Landscape Architects, Engineers ("BBS"), it was determined that the boiler is leaking at the second to last section, right above the return drum nipple, and the firebox brickwork has been compromised as a result, as described in a letter from BBS to the District, dated December 5, 2022, incorporated herein by reference; and WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of BBS, due to the age and condition of the boiler, the difficulty in sourcing parts for the boiler, and the likelihood that other sections of the boiler will have problems, as well as to ensure the safety, health and welfare of the students, staff and visitors at the School, and to preserve the School District's property, it was necessary to immediately replace the leaking boiler; and WHEREAS, the Board of Education is empowered to determine that the expense of the purchase and installation of a new boiler at the School is an ordinary contingent expense within the meaning of §2023 of the New York State Education Law and §170.2(l) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education and that the boiler replacement constitutes an emergency within the meaning of §103 of the General Municipal Law, to allow for the replacement of the boiler at the School, including incidental and related work, on an immediate basis without the necessity of competitive bidding;

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby determines and declares that the cost of the replacement of one boiler at Mount Pleasant Cottage School, including incidental and related costs and expenses, constitutes an ordinary contingent expense within the meaning of §2023 of the Education Law and §170.2(l) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, and constitutes an emergency within the meaning of §103 of the General Municipal Law and hereby authorizes the expenditure of those funds necessary for such purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board, as the only lead agency involved in the emergency project, therefore, declares itself as lead agency for the purpose of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), hereby determines that the replacement of one boiler and associated work at Mount Pleasant Cottage School, will not have a significant environmental impact and declares this project a Type II Action pursuant to '617.5(c)(1) (maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in the structure or facility) and/or (10) (routine activities of educational institutions) of the State Environmental Quality Review Act regulations, and no further action is required; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby acknowledges that instead of using general funds to pay for the boiler replacement at the Mount Pleasant Cottage School, federal funds are being used for such boiler replacement, not to exceed \$155,000 in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER 2) funds and not to exceed \$95,000 in American Recovery Plan (ARP).

7.9 Approval of Agreement with Schenectady City School District

The Board of Education approved an agreement for the provision of educational services to day students from Schenectady City School District during the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

7.10 Approval of Agreement with Ossining Union Free School District

The Board of Education approved an agreement for the provision of educational services to day students from Ossining Union Free School District during the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

7.11 Approval of Agreement with Suffern Central School District

The Board of Education approved an agreement for the provision of educational services to day students from Suffern Central School District during the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

7.12 Approval of Quote from LHRIC for Kahoot

The Board of Education approved the proposal from LHRIC for Kahoot Software and support for a fee of \$1,039.53.

7.13 Approval of Proposal from LHRIC for Full Service Scoring

The Board of Education approved the proposal from LHRIC for Full Service Scoring of constructed responses for ELA, Math, Science and NYSESLAT Exams in the 2023-24 school year for a fee not to exceed \$1,806. and authorizes the Superintendent or his designee to execute any documents related to the proposal.

7.14 Approval of District Appointments

The Board of Education appointed Dr. Christina Torres, Superintendent of Schools as Title II, Title VI, Title VII, and Title IX Compliance Officer, (alternate: Director of Pupil Personnel Services) effective 1/29/2024 through 6/30/2024.

The Board of Education appointed Michael Jenkins, Assistant Principal Building Dignity Act Coordinator effective 1/2/2024 through 6/30/2024.

The Board of Education appointed Dr. Christina Torres, Superintendent of Schools as the Civil Rights Compliance Officer and James Nolan, Director of Pupil Personnel Services as the alternate Civil Rights Compliance Officer effective 1/29/2024 through 6/30/2024.

The Board of Education appointed Dr. Christina Torres, Superintendent of Schools, to approve Special Aide Applications, effective 01/29/2024 through 6/30/2024.

The Board of Education appointed Dr. Christina Torres, Superintendent of Schools, to approve Budget Transfers subject to final approval by Board of Education, effective 01/29/2024 through 6/30/2024.

7.15 Approval of District Authorizations

Dr. Christina Torres, Superintendent of Schools, was authorized by the Board of Education to approve expenses for out-of-district travel assignments of school personnel and for travel on official business for the School District.

The Board President was authorized to approve expenses above \$150.00 for out-of-district travel for official business for Dr. Christina Torres, Superintendent of Schools and in the absence of the President, the Vice-President will authorize expenses.

Dr. Christina Torres, Superintendent of Schools, was authorized to approve the attendance of staff to conferences within the budget.

Dr. Christina Torres, Superintendent of Schools was appointed Records Appeal Officer.

7.16 Appointment of District-Wide Safety Team

The Board of Education approved the appointment of the following individuals to the District-Wide Safety Team for the 2023-2024 school year as required by the Commissioner's Regulation §155.17:

Dr. Christina Torres, Chief Emergency Officer

Michael Jenkins, Assistant Principal

7.17 Appointment of Acting Principal

In the event that Jessica Harris, Principal of the Mount Pleasant Cottage School is not physically present in the Mount Pleasant Cottage School on one or more days (or portions thereof,) during the 2023-2024 school year, Michael Jenkins, Assistant Principal was appointed Acting Principal for purposes of all short-term student discipline matters pursuant to Section 3214 of the New York State Education Law; and the District Clerk shall forward a copy of this resolution to the above referenced person.

7.18 Approval of Mileage Reimbursement Rate

The Board of Education authorize that effective January 1, 2024 the mileage reimbursement rate for approved school use of non-school automobiles will be 67 cents.

7.19 Acceptance of Donation

The Board of Education accepted the donation of \$99 from World of Change, in honor of a change collection done by Zoe X, as part of her mitzvah project. World of Change is a Maine nonprofit that uses the \$10B in spare change sitting idle here in the US as a low -barrier and accessible tool to inspire and empower kids about their capability to change the world around them.

7.20 Acceptance of Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement with Teachers' Association

The Board of Education accepted the Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement dated January 9, 2024 between the Mount Pleasant Cottage School Union Free School District and the Mount Pleasant Cottage School Union Free School District Teacher's Association.

Motion: Mrs. Spieler

Second: Mrs. Irwin

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Mrs. Golden, Mrs. Irwin, Mr. Carter, Mr. John, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Naidich, Mrs. Spieler, Mrs. Stein

8. Personnel Matters

8.1 Approval of Personnel Matters Consent Items

With the consent of the Board, Mrs. Golden took items 8.2 through 8.9 under one motion.

8.2 Recommendation for Tenure Dawn Behzadi

The Board of Education approved the Tenure Recommendation of Ms. Dawn Behzadi in the tenure area of Elementary School Teacher. Ms. Behzadi holds a valid New York State Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6), Professional Certificate and Pre Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Grades 1-6, Permanent Certificate and is hereby granted and appointed to tenure in the area of Elementary School Teacher in the Mount Pleasant Cottage School, Union Free School District, effective February 24, 2024.

8.3 Approval of Stipend for Acting Principal

The Board of Education approved the stipend for Larry Hearn, as an acting principal in the amount of \$1,000 per month effective January 15, 2023.

8.4 Approval of Probationary Interdisciplinary Appointment - Aida Fernandez

The Board of Education approved the appointment of Aida Fernandez to a four-year probationary term as an Interdisciplinary appointment as an ELL Teacher and Spanish Teacher, effective January 24, 2024 through January 23, 2028, in the tenure area of World Languages. In order to be eligible for appointment to tenure, said employee must receive at least three APPR ratings of effective or highly effective during the four-year probationary period and may not receive an ineffective rating in the final year of probation. Ms. Fernandez holds the following certifications: Spanish 7-12, Initial Certificate and English to Speakers of Other Languages, Initial Certificate. Ms. Fernandez's salary will remain at \$72,178 BA40-MA Step 4.

8.5 Approval of Teacher Additional FTE

The Board of Education authorize an additional .09 FTE for the following teachers for the duties of the Master Teacher position:

- Alana Witkowich, a 1.0 Social Studies Teacher, at a prorated salary of \$8,787 effective January 29, 2024
 - Kim Gaynor a 1.0 Special Education Teacher, with an additional prorated salary of \$11,216 effective January 29, 2024
 - Douglas Henery a 1.0 Science Teacher, with an additional prorated salary of \$9,078 effective January 29, 2024
 - Shiara Beers, a 1.0 Special Education Teacher, with an additional prorated salary of \$8,354 effective January 29, 2024
 - Merritt Marcus, a 1.0 Mathematics Teacher, with an additional prorated salary of \$6,282 effective January 29, 2024
 - Duran Aman, a 1.0 Culinary Arts Teacher, with an additional prorated salary of \$6,946 effective January 29, 2024
- And that the additional FTE will not be applied if any of the appointee's are out of the district on leave.

8.6 Approval of Non-Recurring Payment

The Board of Education approved the following one time non-recurring payment for facilitating a tuition rate increase for the following employees:

Catherine Panzanaro - \$5,000
Sheila Pappas - \$5,000
Sandra Shymonowicz - \$5,000

8.7 Civil Service Appointments

The Board of Education approved the following appointments:

Name: Mohammed Nagara
Position: Teacher Aide
Building: MPCS
Rate: \$20.00
Probationary Period: 12 - 52 weeks
Effective Date: January 11, 2024

Name: Daniel Williams
Position: Teacher Aide
Building: MPCS
Rate: \$20.00
Probationary Period: 12 - 52 weeks
Effective Date: December 11, 2023

Name: Azulceleste Valdez
Position: Teacher Aide
Building: Edenwald
Rate: \$20.00
Probationary Period: 12 - 52 weeks
Effective Date: December 18, 2023

Name: Nay'ge Wagner
Position: School Monitor
Building: MPCS
Annual Salary: \$36,000
Probationary Period: 12 - 52 weeks
Effective Date: January 29, 2024

Name: Kala Mathias
Position: Teacher Aide
Building: MPCS
Rate: \$20.00
Probationary Period: 12 - 52 weeks
Effective Date: December 18, 2023

8.8 Administrative Leave

The Board of Education approved a paid administrative leave for employee #551 effective September 29, 2023 through January 17, 2023
and the Board of Education approved an unpaid suspension for employee #551 effective January 18, 2023.

8.9 Resignations

The Board of Education accepted the following resignations:

Eric Telle, Teacher Aide - Edenwald, effective December 21, 2023
Sharda Wilkins, School Monitor - MPCS, effective January 5, 2024
Ariana Braia, Teacher - Edenwald, effective January 12, 2024

Motion: Dr. Naidich
Second: Mr. John
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Mrs. Golden, Mrs. Irwin, Mr. Carter, Mr. John, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Naidich, Mrs. Spieler, Mrs. Stein

9. Committee on Special Education

9.1 Approval of Special Education Committee Recommendations

The Board of Education approved the recommendations of the Mount Pleasant Cottage School District's Committee on Special Education as recommended and presented by the subcommittee.

Motion: Mr. Carter
Second: Mrs. Stein
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Mrs. Golden, Mrs. Irwin, Mr. Carter, Mr. John, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Naidich, Mrs. Spieler, Mrs. Stein

10. Public Comment

10.1 Public Comment

Principal Baier thanked Superintendent Beovich for his service and support.

11. Meeting Notification

11.1 Announcement of February Board of Education meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, February 26, 2024 at 7:30 pm.

12. Executive Session

12.1 Proposed Executive Session Subject to Board Approval

The Board of Education adjourned to Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular person or persons, to discuss legal matters and and to discuss collective bargaining under the Taylor Law pertaining to the Custodial Unit and the Teacher Assistants Unit.

Motion: Mr. Carter
Second: Mrs. Spieler
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Mrs. Golden, Mrs. Irwin, Mr. Carter, Mr. John, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Naidich, Mrs. Spieler, Mrs. Stein

12.2 Reconvene to Public Session

The Board of Education reconvened to Public Session at 9:11 pm.

Motion: Dr. Naidich
Second: Mr. John
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Mrs. Golden, Mrs. Irwin, Mr. Carter, Mr. John, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Naidich, Mrs. Spieler, Mrs. Stein

13. Adjournment

13.1 Adjourn Meeting

Action: The Board of Education adjourned the meeting at 9:12 pm

Motion: Mrs. Stein
Second: Mr. Carter
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Mrs. Golden, Mrs. Irwin, Mr. Carter, Mr. John, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Naidich, Mrs. Spieler, Mrs. Stein

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Pappas
District Clerk