



Mountain Lakes Board of Education meeting, 9-19-22

Student Government Update, Elle Lynk, SGA President

Homecoming dance, football game against Hanover Park this weekend. The Homecoming Court elected by the senior class. Six colleges and universities will visit the school this week. A few visited last week. They will continue in the fall.

Superintendent Update

Mr. Fetherman stated that at the request of the Board, he and Ms Cerisi will report on their progress toward district goals at the second meeting of each month. Coffee talks with H&SA 10/19, 12/13, 2/9, 8/25 media and virtual alternating

“Start Strong” fall assessments has finished in Lake Drive. It is underway in Wildwood, High School started their testing today, and Briarcliff will start next week. Shout out to test coordinators and IT faculty let by Mr. Santos who do a lot of prep work for this. Start Strong is a NJ DOE assessment. It is done in one sitting of up to 60 minutes. The goal is to get results to teachers right away to inform their instruction.

Board Member Ms Lewis stated that Start Strong was supposed to be only last year, but the state has mandated it this year as well. Will we do it next year? Ms Cerisi replied that she hopes they will not have to, but nothing is certain.

Board goals will be reported out quarterly. The Board has linked certain goals to certain committees who will be responsible for those goals.

The Board accepted community questions on the superintendent’s presentation (see link below to access all Board presentations). A community member asked why they do not want to run this assessment next year if it is giving feedback on the students. The Board answered that there are other assessments that do that and this additional one cuts into instructional time.

BA Update

Good work is taking place in the Board Committees. Tonight, they will approve back minutes.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

A community member thanked the Board for catching up on back minutes and asked if the Board has a total of legal and time costs expended due to the lawsuit being filed against the school by our neighbors; and if incremental costs are incurred by our neighbors repeated delay of hearings in the lawsuit. Mr. Ferreira answered that the attorney bills them monthly, but he does not have the lawsuit costs broken out. If the Board requests it, he can gather it.

A community member thanks for the faculty who do the work, sometimes without pay, to advise the many student clubs being approved in motion 15.



Boonton Township Report

Boonton Township representative Mr. LeVar reported that on 8/30 RVS ran a best practice and threat assessment workshop with police, sheriff, and the Office of Emergency Management.

On 9/30, the BTEF is hosting a "Denim and Diamonds" event at Lake Valhalla Club. BTEFNJ.org for tickets. A highly coveted parking spot for a High School Junior is being raffled off. Please come.

Committee Updates

Facilities Committee: Ms Tucker reported that they met on 9/15 and discussed snow removal. The district will keep the DPW as primary source with a vendor as a backup. Looking for an hourly quote they can accept. Shared services with the town are being pursued. In snow removal, the town streets are first priority, and the school grounds are secondary to the town. WW playground equipment was delivered 9/14. Demolition starts next week followed by installations. Discussed developing an RFP for an architect to develop a partnership with for upcoming project and further work in the future. The property line between residential lot and BC lot has been cleared out, boulders on our side to serve as border. May add landscaping. Water testing of last year was discussed. All questions go to Alex on water testing.

Liaison Reports

Home & School Association: Dr. McIntyre reported that they met 9/9, please look for their tables at Back to School Nights. Bake Sale is underway. Deadline is near. Many opportunities to volunteer. Portraits By The Lake signups are open. Another date for sittings may be added. Follow H&SA on FB, Instagram, and Virtual Backpack for updates on their events.

FOTA: Ms Leininger reported that they met Friday. See VB on the ML district website for membership apps. FOTA grants scholarships to arts-focused seniors. They recently donated portable mirrors to the Drama department and a new keyboard to the Music department. The Fall drama is "Almost, Maine" which runs 11/17-11/19. Their "Take a Seat" fundraiser lets donors purchase name placards which will adorn a seat in the theater.

MLEF: Ms Tucker reported they had their first meeting on 10/6. Their mission is fundraising for the schools. First fundraiser is a 10/1 tennis social and round robin at Park Lakes. To join go to [MLEFTennis22.givesmart.com](https://mleftennis22.givesmart.com). They will hold a raffle pull on 11/21, details to come. MLEF thanks the BOE for its support.

BA Recommendations

In motion 5 we will approve BC Student activity fee. In motion #6 we are rejecting snow removal bids for non-compliance. Today's Policy updates are all mandated by NJ Statute. This week is first read.

Motion 9 has changes to tuition enrollees. There is one new student, two are changes to their start dates, and the one student is an in-district student at LD so should not have been reported as tuition. This is a correction.



Ms Leninger asked about Motion 8, disposition of books. What will the district do about books that are worn out. Are they being replaced? Mr Fetherman replied that they would be.

Recommendations of the Superintendent

There is a hand carried motion, #23, regarding a leave of absence not on agenda. (This was not available to the public in attendance.) Board members express gratitude for new subs and for teachers advising clubs. The board is happy and excited to welcome Kevin Wallace is new AD.

New Business

Ms Parker asks the BA to aggregate legal fees associated with the lawsuit. Mr LeVar thinks the board should discuss whether it is a good idea to publish that information. They agree to consult the Board Attorney for an opinion.

Public Comment

Two community members together spoke to “shed light on a practice that needs a refresh.” Their child will miss school due to a surgery and would like him to be able to access online instruction. They thanked Mr. Fetherman for having met with them earlier to discuss remote instruction. He stated that the policy is that remote instruction is only for students isolating due to Covid and that their child would be provided with a tutor. They are requesting that the board please give him listen only access with no ability to interrupt. This would help him keep up, enhance the tutors instruction keep him connected, and benefit his mental health. Remote instruction of this sort should be provided for kids who are physically unable to attend. The infrastructure is there. *Mr. Fetherman replied that he must keep exceptions extremely narrow and must consider the input of the MLEA and NJEA. The mechanisms we have in place will support your child. Ms Leininger asked that they discuss kids who are medically fragile – were not sick but had to isolate. Ms Parker said she would like to discuss in committee.*

A community member asks the Board to please reconsider the request of the prior community members for remote instruction and how we see children with illness. We should recognize their resilience. Please reconsider adding Juneteenth to the calendar (same day as BC Moving Up day). In regard to lead testing, she heard that the water has not been shut off at certain fountains. Some kids have higher lead levels. Please clarify the remediation efforts. Consider a presentation of the report and listen to some recommendations on how to lessen lead levels with regard to usage and replacement. This is an opportunity to educate the public. *Mr. Fetherman replies that this process is being managed by Mr. Ferreira but assures us that there are no “hot” faucets that kids are drinking from. Anything that failed has been turned off or replaced.*

Meeting adjourned 9pm

All presentations can be found at

<https://www.mlschools.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=192132&pageId=498548>

