



## Mountain Lakes Board of Education Reorganization meeting, 1-4-22

### Reorganization

Joanne Barkauskas was nominated and confirmed by board vote as President, continuing in a role she has held since January of 2021. Jen Parker was nominated and confirmed by board vote as Vice President. New Board members Aruni Don, Meghan Leininger, and Erinn Tucker were sworn in.

Superintendent Update, Michael Fetherman, Dr. Bangia (find this presentation at [https://www.mlschools.org/board\\_of\\_education/board\\_meeting\\_presentations](https://www.mlschools.org/board_of_education/board_meeting_presentations)):

A busy year ahead: continuation of the Strategic Planning process and implementation, MLEA negotiations, and continuing work on the school buildings.

Covid: The importance of in-person instruction is the driving motivation to use all mitigation strategies to keep the students in the schools. Currently 29 staff members are out due to Covid. If one or two more go out, instruction will have to go virtual. Currently staff are stretched to the maximum. The CDC has shortened the quarantine period to 5 days, but that does not apply to schools. Our district continues to require 10-day quarantine for anyone testing positive for Covid. Virtual learning is only available to those who have tested positive for Covid. At-home rapid and healthcare-administered rapid tests are acceptable to qualify for virtual instruction.

Strategic Planning: The Strategic Planning community process was created and run by Dr. Bangia. Goal statements were developed at the last meeting. At the March 1<sup>st</sup> BOE meeting, Dr. Bangia will share the resulting plan with action steps and a timetable. One goal area was financial stability, and the board discussed ways to create revenue by attracting tuition students, as did the Biotech Academy program.

Electives: the administration is circulating a survey to students to determine the level of interest in various electives for next year's offerings.

Parent SEL Workshops: the next will be "Stress Management," presented virtually via Microsoft Teams, on Jan 25, from 7-8 pm. RSVP requested, but not required.

Linkit Portal: go to [mlschools.linkit.com/parent](https://mlschools.linkit.com/parent). All non-classroom assessments results are available here.

Upcoming Coffee Talks: Hosted with MLH&SA, 2/9/22 in person, 4/27/22 virtual.

### BA Update

BA Alex Ferreira stated that budget season is underway, and that the finance and facilities committees will be meeting next week. He directed the board members to recite the code of ethics governing Board of Education members, as is normally done at each year's reorg meeting.



### Public Comment

A community member asked the board to focus on the poor performance on the AP tests as represented in the AP Presentation from last BOE meeting. This should take precedence over developing new curriculum to attract out of district students.

A community member asked about motion 6, the adoption of Strauss Esmay policies, and what is the status of the policy governing political activities on school grounds. The BA explained that it is a pro-forma motion to adopt those policies that they had last year. The policy governing political activities will be adopted next meeting, and the regulations defining how that policy will be applied are a work in progress.

A community member congratulated the new members and wished the best of luck to the Board in the endeavors ahead.

### Boonton Township

The BT representative will be introduced at the next ML BOE meeting

### New Business

The board discussed the committees and asked members to indicate their areas of interest. The president will assign members and chairs to all the committees.

The Board seat vacated by Jen Scarpati was filled by Lauren Silva McIntyre, who applied for the position and then was interviewed in the first of the evening's two executive sessions.

### Executive Session

### Adjournment