

# Uncontested Mountainside Candidates Set Sites on Passage of School Budget

By MARK J. YABLONSKY  
Specially Written for The Leader and The Times

On Tuesday, April 21, when Mountainside residents go to the polls, they'll have two basic things to vote on: a slate of three unchallenged Board of Education members seeking reelection, and a school budget of \$8,696,740.

Incumbent board members Richard H. Kress, board President Patricia L. Taeschler and Vice President Sally Rivieccio all have indicated that since there is an uncontested election this spring, they will worry instead about getting the budget approved by borough residents.

And with Mountainside facing its first full year apart from the now-defunct Union County Regional High School district, all three feel the com-



Patricia L. Taeschler

I'm delighted to be working with — and with de-regionalization, I'm interested in working with that," Mrs. Rivieccio, who has a sophomore daughter attending Governor Livingston and a sophomore daughter attending Gettysburg College, Pennsylvania, added.

"In the long run, of course there's going to be savings," the Vice President commented when asked about the old regional system's elimination. "Had we stayed regional, we would have watched those numbers go through the roof. In the long run, I feel we're going to save money."

"We are at a point now where we have a new administrative leader, and we're in the process of doing our strategic planning, and I'm looking forward to that," replied Mrs. Taeschler when asked why she was seeking a third term of three years on the board.

Mrs. Taeschler, a resident of Sunny Slope Drive, was first elected to the

board in 1992. She is originally from North Bergen.

"We're really right in the midst of many exciting things," she added.

Mr. Kress, a Ridge Drive resident, and a criminal attorney who practices in Clark, is completing his third full term on the board, having first been elected in 1989. He served as board Vice President in 1995.

"I've enjoyed being a member of the Board of Education," Mr. Kress responded when asked why he was seeking a fourth term. "We've accomplished a lot in the last term, particularly with the (regional) dissolution, and now I think this board has to take the steps necessary to take the curriculum into the next century."

Mr. Kress said he supports the district's proposed budget "100 percent," and added that a large tax portion of the \$268,505 increase over last year's spending plan is coming from unappropriated funds, including some "liquid assets" left over from the end of regionalization.

Actually, Mrs. Taeschler said, the budgeting last year, in anticipation of the regional breakup, resulted in more being set aside than was necessary, leaving, in essence, a surplus this year.

Therefore, Mr. Kress said, "The tax burden is only going to increase by about \$39,000."

As of now, the district feels any tax increase would be under a tax point at the most, and "actually, we're hoping there won't be any increase due to the (tax) ratables," Mrs. Taeschler, a trained nurse, said.

Mrs. Rivieccio, much like Mr. Kress, issued warm words for Dr. Schaller.

"Oh, absolutely," the Vice President agreed. "Under the leadership of Dr. Schaller, there's just no stopping us. He's just motivated the whole staff, and we're really looking forward to



Richard H. Kress

ing year can be instrumental in guiding district students toward the 21st century.

"I would say it's a very exciting time," commented Mrs. Rivieccio in regard to the post-regionalization era, which technically began on or about July 1, 1997.

"The changes are all positive, and the community is very happy with the change," she added.

With the district now sending its high school-aged students to Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights, the Mountainside school board representative to Union County's western-most district is Mrs. Rivieccio, who was first elected to the Mountainside school board in 1995.

Presently, Mountainside pays \$12,500 to Governor Livingston, now also autonomous from regional control, for high school tuition costs, Chief School Administrator Dr. Gerard A. Schaller said earlier.

A new contract between the two neighboring communities is expected to be agreed upon sometime during the upcoming 1998-99 school year.

In the meantime, Dr. Schaller has been with the district formally since November 10, 1997, and his job title basically encompasses that of Schools Superintendent and Principal of the Deerfield Elementary School on Central Avenue.

All three candidates speak highly of him, and feel the district is in prime position to complete its independence from the old regionalization plan. Since school boards operate on a fiscal calendar, and not a yearly one, the passage of this year's budget will mark the first spending plan for Mountainside — on a Kindergarten through grade 12 district — completely on its own.

"We have new administration that

## Westfield Symphony

2x6

*No picture available of Sally Rivieccio*

## Ken Mason

3x3

## Family Invest

3x5



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# Dinner Menu

### SOUP OF THE DAY

Cup: \$1.75 Bowl: \$2.50

### APPETIZERS

- Maryland Style Lump Crab Cakes with Red Pepper Chili Mayo..... \$6.95
- Jumbo Coconut Shrimp with Sweet & Sour Sauce..... \$7.95
- Oriental Duck & Vegetable Strudel with Honey Vinaigrette..... \$7.95
- Grilled Portabella Mushrooms over Field Greens with Balsamic Vinaigrette.... \$6.95
- Quesadillas of the Day served with Sour Cream, Guacamole & Salsa..... \$6.95

### SALADS

- J&M's Famous Caesar Salad served with Pecarino Romano and Homemade Croutons...\$3.95
- Mixed Baby Greens with Roquefort Cheese, Apples & Walnuts..... \$4.95
- Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad with Pecorino Romano and Homemade Croutons..... \$6.95
- Fresh Mozzarella, Roasted Peppers, Tomato & Basil Drizzled with Olive Oil..... \$7.95

### FROM THE GRILL

- B.L.T. .... \$4.25 • Grilled Cheese..... \$3.50
- Grilled Cheese & Tomato..... \$3.75
- Herb Marinated Chicken Cutlet Sandwich..... \$4.25
- Cajun Style Chicken Cutlet Sandwich..... \$4.25

### REUBENS

- Made with Russian Dressing & Sauerkraut on Rye Bread, served open or closed
- Smoked Turkey & Swiss \* Corned Beef & Swiss \* Pastrami & Swiss..... \$4.95

### PHILLY CHEESE STEAKS

- Steak, American Cheese, Sautéed Peppers & Onions..... \$5.95
- Steak, Swiss Cheese, Sautéed Onions & Mushrooms..... \$5.95
- Steak, Cheddar Cheese, Bacon & Onion..... \$6.95

### HAMBURGERS (8 OZ.)

- Hamburger..... \$2.95 • Blue Cheese..... \$3.95
- Cheeseburger..... \$3.50 • Bacon Cheddar..... \$4.50
- Cheddar..... \$3.95
- Deluxe (lettuce, onions & fries)..... \$4.95 with cheese..... \$5.50
- Create Your Own Burger with lettuce & tomatoes..... \$2.95 with fries..... \$4.50
- Extras: Pickles, Fried Mushrooms, Salsa, Bacon, Hot Peppers, Cheese, Fried Onions..... .50¢ ea.

### SIDES

- Deli Salads (pasta, potato, coleslaw)..... \$1.75
- French Fries or Cheese Fries..... \$1.75 • Onion Rings..... \$2.50
- Curly Fries..... \$2.00

### KIDS MEALS

Includes fries & fountain soda – \$3.00

- Hot Dogs \ Hamburgers \ Chicken Fingers \ Grilled Cheese
- Peanut Butter & Jelly \ Bologna & Cheese

### HOAGIES

	1/2 (7" Club)	Whole (14" Roll)
Store-Roast Beef	\$5.25	\$9.95
Store-Roast Turkey	\$5.25	\$9.95
Tuna Salad	\$5.25	\$9.95
Virginia Ham & Cheese	\$5.25	\$9.95
Italian (Ham, Salami & Provolone)	\$5.00	\$9.25
Chicken Salad-Reg. or Honey Mustard	\$5.25	\$9.95
Turkey, Roast Beef, Ham & Swiss	\$5.25	\$9.95
J & M Combo: Any 2 Meats & 1 Cheese	\$5.25	\$9.95

(Prepared with lettuce, tomatoes, onions, oil, vinegar & spices)

### SLOPPY JOE

Triple Decker on Rye with Coleslaw & Homemade Russian Dressing..... \$4.95

- Choose from: Roast Beef & Swiss • Turkey & Swiss • Ham & Swiss
- Corned Beef, Pastrami & Swiss • Smoked Turkey, Virginia Ham & Swiss

### TRIPLE DECKER CLUB SANDWICH

Toasted Bread (White, Wheat or Rye), Lettuce, Tomato & Bacon..... \$5.95

- Choose from: Roast Beef • Turkey • Ham & Swiss • Tuna • Grilled Chicken

### SPECIALTY SANDWICHES

- Herb Grilled Chicken, Eggplant Copanata & Arugula on Focaccia Bread..... \$6.95
- Grilled Vegetables, Fresh Mozzarella & Romaine with Balsamic Vinegar on Focaccia Bread..... \$5.95
- Grilled London Broil, Cucumber, Roasted Peppers, Tomatoes with Fresh Horseradish Sauce on a Croissant..... \$6.95
- Cajun Chicken, Roasted Peppers, Cheddar Cheese & Arugula on Sourdough Bread..... \$6.95
- Sesame Chicken Salad on Pita with Oranges & Melted Havarti..... \$5.95
- Roasted Peppers, Herb Goat Cheese & Olive Tapenade on French Bread..... \$6.95
- Fresh Roasted Turkey, Fresh Blue Cheese & Chutney on Pecan Raisin Bread..... \$6.95
- Hot Roast Beef French Dip with Melted Mozzarella on French Bread..... \$5.95
- Prosciutto Ham, Herbed Tomato and Melted Fontina Cheese on Focaccia Bread..... \$7.95
- Grilled Portabella Mushroom, Roasted Peppers, Fresh Mozzarella, Romaine & Balsamic Vinegar on Focaccia..... \$6.95

### PASTA

- Farfalle and Seafood Medley with a Fresh Herb Cream Sauce..... \$10.95
- Fettuccine with Duck, Roasted Peppers, Tomato, Roasted Eggplant & Thyme with Marsala Wine and Cream..... \$10.95
- Rigatoni with Plum Tomato, Prosciutto, Roasted Garlic and Basil..... \$9.95

### ENTREES

- Midwestern Pork Loin Stuffed with Wild Mushroom, Served with Marsala Wine Sauce..... \$14.95
- Roasted 1/2 Pekin Duck with Seasonal Sauce..... \$13.95
- Sauteed Chicken Breast, with Roasted Peppers, Artichokes & Mushrooms with a Balsamic Buerre Blanc..... \$13.95
- 16 OZ. Nature Loin Veal Chop Grilled and Stuffed with Fresh Mozzarella & Sun-Dried Tomatoes..... \$23.95
- 12 OZ. Prime Aged N.Y. Strip Steak, in a Merlot Wine Sauce with Fresh Sauteed Onions & Mushrooms..... \$19.95
- 8 OZ. Petite Filet Mignon Steak in a Merlot Wine Sauce with Fresh Sauteed Onions & Mushrooms..... \$17.95
- Grilled New England Swordfish with Arugula and Eggplant Caponata..... \$15.95
- Grilled Yellow Fin Tuna with Grilled Vegetables..... \$16.95
- Herb Potato Crusted North Atlantic Salmon Filet..... \$14.95
- Twin Double Thick Spring Loin Lamb Chops..... \$18.95

Monday - Friday 6am-9pm • Saturdays 9am - 6pm