

Montague Township Board of Education Meeting
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2020
6:00 pm

Mr. Plotsky called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Roll Call

	Present	Absent
Dale Bouma	X	
Paul Brislin	X	
Jennifer Caramucci	X	
Danielle Christmann	X	
Billy Underwood	X	
Charles Teufert, Vice President	X	
Glen Plotsky, President	X	

Others Present:

Timothy Capone - Chief School Administrator
Maria Costa – Board Secretary

Flag Salute

Mr. Plotsky led those present in a salute to our flag.

Mr. Plotsky read the following mission statement and notice of this meeting:

The mission of the Montague Township School District is to provide the best educational experience and opportunities resources allow, in order to realize the potential of every child.

In accordance with the New Jersey Sunshine Law, a legal notice of this meeting has been posted on the official bulletin board at the school and advertised in the New Jersey Herald and the Sunday New Jersey Herald.

Executive Session

Motion to open Executive Session at 6:01 PM.

Moved: Jennifer Caramucci

Seconded: Charles Teufert

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

Close Executive Session at 7:00 PM.

Moved: Jennifer Caramucci

Seconded: Charles Teufert

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

Re-open the Regular Meeting at 7:00 PM.

Moved: Paul Brislin

Seconded: Charles Teufert

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

I. CSA Report

- Teacher, Brenten Runne and Michelle Visco thanked the board for the opportunities given to the students.
 - Field Trips, Sport Programs- Flag Football, Winter Boys and Girls basketball.
 - Number of different clubs- Bell Choir, Chess, Fishing Club, Sunny Seeds, Theatre, Lego.
 - Expanding our preschool program.
 - Creating a STEM program.

- Hosted multiple Stem nights with great turnout.
- Thanked the board for Agricultural opportunities.
 - More fish added to the school resulting in three different type of trout.
 - Welcomed baby chicks to Montague.
- MEA Fall showcase, PTA, students and our families, operated a table at the holiday celebration, sent out Valentine letters to our veterans.
- MEA has been giving holiday presents, food for meal trains, donated clothing, mitten, and scarfs for family in need.
- Mr. Capone stated that many of our staff are being attacked by the community, as they are asking for check registers, payment vouchers, tuition records, contracts with salary information.
- Mr. Capone thanked Mrs. Visco and Mr. Runne for presenting to the board.

Why do we appear in the paper so much due to an unethical reporter?

Mr. Capone's Response:

- In the last article that posted, a couple of statements need to be addressed:
 - "Mr. Capone had filed a counter charge." Mr. Capone questioned Eric Obernauer, "Will you provide a single piece of evidence to support that statement?"
 - Mr. Capone stated this statement is false.
 - Issue moved Ogdensburg because of Mr. Capone's attorney.
 - Failed to mention in the article, two cases that night
 - Mr. Capone questioned Eric Obernauer " Why did you leave the fact that a harassment charge by a community member was dismissed?"
 - "Answer is because it didn't work with your narrative.
- Another article by Eric Obernauer was about the mold and The Montague Township School.
 - The NJ dept of health made an unannounced visit on Feb 13.
 - 4 recommendations received:
 1. Indoor air quality plan
 2. Written hazard communication program
 3. Give them the name of person responsible
 4. Needs to be an eye wash station in the supply closet required that never existed
- There were no findings of mold.
 - Yet, this has been a running narrative without any evidence.
- There was an article about OPRA. In this article, Eric O. wrote it was in fact a series of OPRA requests in 2014 to uncover a policy about Capone. Mr. Capone stated that this is false. That did not come from Mr. Capone, came from someone that worked for Mr. Capone.
 - Two requests were made and they obtained two copies at a time.
 - There was an issue but it wasn't about OPRA. FERPA was the real issue unaddressed by the media because they don't know what they are reading.
- Favorite article- Herald scores top honor in paper contest. Eric receiving an award on April 23rd. Articles are fake news.
 - There was no mold, or harassment, continue on with false stories that were written.
 - Future installments of unethical reporting- personnel and student information requests, publicly
 - Vetting sources,, reliable sources and anyone with the option.
 - Fiction vs nonfiction it is facts or evidence.
 - Writing an article before receiving an OPRA request
 - Obtaining your next story by naming your source.
- Last spring people who complained were disgruntled ex-employees and that prefer High Point as send/ receive.

- My objective and this boards' objective were to give the most options in the most fiscal responsible way.
- Last comments saying things that are irrelevant
 - Community Member "Comment was when Capone worked with the state dept his job was to work with the Trenton Union"
 - Mr. Capone's Response: FALSE, conflict of interest.
- Community Member "Making this a K-6 district"
 - Mr. Capone's Response: this is a false comment.
- Community Member, "Our teacher is not qualified to teach the subject they are teaching."
 - Mr. Capone's Response: False, we have teachers getting dual certifications.
- Email from community member in reference to - High Point performance- in the email.
 - Statements from a community member.
 - "Data can be perceived that Montague is not preparing for High School" attacking the Montague staff for performance at High Point.
 - "WE are a new middle school," blaming this staff.
 - "Mentioning socioeconomic status, "we are the lowest at High point
 - "Community involvement commitment and support, never felt so lacking in the community."
 - "Peer relationships- Montague students never fit in with High Point students"
 - "Internal motivation"- this factor is blame to the student
- This is what is represented by a community member who comes to the podium week after week.

Performance – Students at Port Jervis – 1 out of 4 has D's or F's

- Numbers coming from High Point – 3 out of 4, has D or F.
- Just shy of 3 out of every 4.
- That is not a measure of success

Bank Cap- last meeting- individual made a statement that the board can only raise taxes 2%

Bank Cap eligibility- statute print out

Last year they did not break any laws raising the tax rate.

Thank the staff for being here- continue to look for ways to meet the needs for students and expand those offerings.

Today meeting Sussex Community College- change in federal regulation, Perkin funding down to 5th grade, get funding for 5 – 8- align with the college, end of course test – bring additional revenue to the school and can support this program. Meeting with them optimistic to get this up and running with paperwork

Students can earn college credit for completion in middle school.

II. SBA Report

III. Correspondence

- Two letters Mr. Plotsky received Frankford school- invitation to meet with other board presidents and school administrators, Maureen Kaman

IV. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the minutes of the February 10, 2020 board meeting.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Danielle Christmann

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

XII. Public Session – Agenda Items

Public comment is invited on all matters pertaining to the school district. All participants shall be permitted three (3) minutes to speak and shall state their name, place of residence, and group affiliation, if appropriate.

Board meetings are a meeting of the Board conducted in public, NOT a meeting of the public conducted in the presence of the Board.

The Board uses the public comment period as an opportunity to listen to citizen concerns, but please be aware that not all issues brought to a board meeting will be resolved this evening; rather, the Board will, in appropriate cases, delegate the authority to investigate the matter to the Superintendent or his designee.

Please let the record reflect that the BOE does not endorse your comments nor will the BOE be held liable for comments you make about a staff member, or other person, which the staff member, or other person, may consider defamatory and/or libelous, as that individual retains all rights to pursue any legal remedies against you.

Public comments to open at 7:23 PM.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Jennifer Caramucci

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

Barbara Holstein- Questioned F6 and the transfers moving from Special Education accounts and expense accounts. Will like explanation of money represented prior and what is represented now.

Barbara Holstein- F11- Confirm this is earmarked for rural program not to administrators or future salaries of non-certified staff.

- Mr. Capone's Response re: F6:
 - There were six previous BA's and no organized budget.
 - In the first year, there was no budget for Kindergarten teachers.
 - Two years ago, under that BA, there were 23 audit recommendations.
 - Mid-Year Transfers are normal.
 - Line items- difference between what is budgeted and how money is spent.
- Mr. Capone's Response re: F11:
 - Grant is very specific and that is where the money is spent.

Close public comment at 7:26 PM.

Moved: Jennifer Caramucci

Seconded: Paul Brislin

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

XIII. Action Items

A-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the following field trips.

Field Trip	Date	Attendees	Location	Cost
Kindergarten Sussex County Fair Ground	May 20, 2020	29 Students 3 Adults 5 Parents	Branchville, NJ	Total: \$116.00 Adults are Free
5 th Grade Lake Hopatcong "Floating Classroom"	June 8, 2020	34 Students 2 Adults	Landing, NJ	Total: \$648.00
6 th Grade Yogi Berra STEM Pitch	June 10, 2020	18 Students 2 Adults	Little Falls, NJ	Lunch Space Fee: \$35.00 Total: \$215.00

Moved: Jennifer Caramucci

Seconded: Charles Teufert

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

A-2 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education appoint Darrell Stewart District Indoor Air Quality Program designated coordinator.

Moved: Jennifer Caramucci

Seconded: Charles Teufert

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

A-3 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education appoint Darrell Stewart District Hazard Communication Program designated coordinator.

Moved: Jennifer Caramucci

Seconded: Charles Teufert

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

XIV. Financial Items

F-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve February 11, 2020 thru February 24, 2020 - Bill List attached and listed below:

	Check Numbers	Amount
Regular Bill List	#A:N0214, N0224	
	A:25468-A:25498	\$263,782.98
Lunch Program	F: N0225	\$70.65

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Jennifer Caramucci

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

F-2 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Board Secretary’s Report (A-148) for the month of January 2020.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Jennifer Caramucci

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

F-3 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Treasurer of School Monies Report (A-149) for the month of January 2020.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Jennifer Caramucci

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

F-4 BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-2.11(c) 3, the Board of Education certify that as of January 31, 2020, after review of the Secretary’s monthly financial reports for January 31, 2020 (appropriations section), and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, Montague Township BOE is in compliance with N.J.A.C 6A:23-2.11 (c) 4 and shall certify in the minutes of the Board each month that no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16:10(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Jennifer Caramucci

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

F-5 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education request the Executive County Superintendent to approve the attached 2019-2020 Monthly Transfers Worksheet – Detail of Transfers through January 31, 2020.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Jennifer Caramucci

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

F-6 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the following list of line item transfers effective January 31,2020.

Source Account	Target Account	Amount
11-000-100-566-000-000	10-000-100-561-000-000	\$107,472.00
11-000-216-320-000-000	11-000-216-100-000-000	\$5,970.10
11-000--262-100-000-00	11-000-262-420-000-000	\$21,363.62
11-000-270-518-000-000	11-000-270-503-000-000	\$7,797.00
11-000-230-820-000-000	11-000-230-331-000-000	\$12,730.62
11-000-230-890-000-000	11-000-230-331-000-000	\$4,030.00
11-000-230-590-000-000	11-000-230-331-000-000	\$375.29
11-000-270-518-000-000	11-000-230-331-000-000	\$18,801.29
11-000-221-600-000-000	11-000-221-102-000-000	\$1,383.75
		\$179,923.67

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Jennifer Caramucci

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X		X	X	X	6
NO								
ABSTAIN				X				1
ABSENT								

F-7 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve Alere eScreen/Abbott Labs, through the Newton Urgent Care FMCSA Consortium, to provide alcohol and drug testing services for school bus drivers as per NJ Department of Transportation requirements at \$50/test and an annual consortium fee not to exceed \$100 for the 2019-20 school year.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Jennifer Caramucci

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

F-8 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the agreement for Ancillary Educational Services between Montague

Township School District and Sussex County Educational Services Commission for the 2019-2020 School Year Child Study Team Services and Itinerant Public School Services as needed at member rates.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Jennifer Caramucci

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

F-9 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education motion to rescind recommendation F-6 from the January 7th 2020 Montague Township Board of Education Meeting to enter into 36-month agreement with CenturyLink (Q-00909285) (attached) for internet and phone due to FCC E-rate Category 1 eligibly restrictions.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Jennifer Caramucci

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

F-10 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve entering into a renewed 36-month FCC E-rate Category 1 eligible agreement with CenturyLink (470#200013334) (attached) for internet and phone to replace the current contract that is set to expire on February 22nd, 2020. This agreement will save the district approximately **\$30,971.70** over the next 3 years.

Below notes the specifications and terms of the agreement.

New Agreement:

Fiber Internet speed: 500 mbps **5 times are current internet speed**

Phone service: IQ SIP Trunk **5,000 minutes included**

Phone service 4 POTs lines for Fire alarm, building alarm, fax and phone system backup

Total Savings after 3 Years							\$30,971.70
------------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--------------------

CenturyLink New Contract	Months	Cost Monthly	Yearly Cost	E-rate 70% Discount	Total Cost Per Year Phone - Internet	Total Cost over 36 Months
Internet 500 Mbps	12	\$1,252.65	\$15,031.80	\$10,522.26	\$4,509.54	
Phone IQ SIP Trunk	12	\$200.98	\$2,411.76	N/A	\$2,411.76	
Total		\$1,453.63	\$17,443.56		\$6,921.30	\$20,763.90

Current Agreement:

Fiber Internet speed:100 mbps

Phone Service: 12 POTs lines (No minutes included. Usage charges apply.)

CenturyLink Current Contract	Months	Cost Monthly	Yearly Cost	E-rate 70% Discount	Total Cost Per Year Phone - Internet	Total Cost over 36 Months
Internet 100 Mbps	12	\$1,807.00	\$21,684.00	\$15,178.80	\$6,505.20	
Phone 12 POTs Lines + Usage	12	\$895.00	\$10,740.00	N/A	\$10,740.00	
Total		\$2,702.00	\$32,424.00		\$17,245.20	\$51,735.60

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Jennifer Caramucci

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

F-11 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve to accept grant award from Rural Education Achievement program for the 2019-2020 school year with the amount of \$17,224.00.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Jennifer Caramucci

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

XV. Public Session

Public comment is invited on all matters pertaining to the school district. All participants shall be permitted three (3) minutes to speak and shall state their name, place of residence, and group affiliation, if appropriate.

Board meetings are a meeting of the Board conducted in public, NOT a meeting of the public conducted in the presence of the Board.

The Board uses the public comment period as an opportunity to listen to citizen concerns, but please be aware that not all issues brought to a board meeting will be resolved this

evening; rather, the Board will, in appropriate cases, delegate the authority to investigate the matter to the Superintendent or his designee.

Please let the record reflect that the BOE does not endorse your comments nor will the BOE be held liable for comments you make about a staff member, or other person, which the staff member, or other person, may consider defamatory and/or libelous, as that individual retains all rights to pursue any legal remedies against you.

Public comments to open at 7:31 PM.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Paul Brislin

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

John Mannion

- State that Mr. Capone was not vindicated in that case. Congratulated the NJ Herald and Eric O. for accurately reporting what goes on at the school.

Ellie Murphy

- Stated there is a revengeful leader creating a wider gap between the school and the community.

Krista Mikulski

- Review the costs and fiscal value of what we do here.
- Concerned of her child’s safety, walk from Town Hall to her home.
- Believes Montague should have a seat on the High Point Board.

Cathy Ganska

- Thanked the staff as her children are succeeding at Montague. Concerns are how she can keep her children going to school in NJ and not out of state.
- Requested to review the source of our school lunches.

Barbara Holstein

- Make the statute to continue to attend High Point public.
- In her view, High Point statistics are better.

Tasha DeGeorge

- Addressed the OPRA fees and service charges and gave a handout to the board members.
- The OPRA Handout included the answer to the question what is a special service charge?
 - A special service charge is essentially a labor fee that may be charged when a request is voluminous, requiring extensive time and effort, or when the request required

extensive use of technology. Actual direct cost means the hourly rate of the lowest level employee capable of fulfilling the request (no fringe benefits).

Caitlin Borrás

- Stated that teachers at Montague work hard and care about the students. She appreciates them and that is why the kids love coming to school.

Kristine Bisl

- Believes there is a hemorrhaging of staff.

Ellie Murphy

- Asked the board members to get rid of Capone.

Barbara Holstein

- Read an anonymous letter to the board.

John Mannion

- Stated that we should have teacher turnout at every meeting.

Lisa Camacho

- Inquiry about why child came to school and her original teacher wasn't there. Stated that she doesn't stand by Mr. Capone.

Close Public Comments at 8:06 PM.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Paul Brislin

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

XVI. Unfinished Business

- None

XVII. New Business

- Mr. Capone shared OPRA information from the attorney to the board members.

XIX. Adjournment

Motion Dale Bouma 2nd Jennifer Caramucci

- All in Favor

Time of Adjournment: 8:25 PM

