

**Montague Township Board of Education Meeting
Regular Action Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2023**

1. **CALL TO ORDER at 6:30 p.m.**

2. **ROLL CALL**

	Present	Absent
Barbara Holstein, President	X	
Michael Zernhelt, Vice President	X (via phone)	
Christopher Bell	X	
Paul Brislin	X	
Andree Campbell	X	
Tasha DeGeorge	X	
Jaime Johnson	X	

Others Present:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
James Andriac - Acting Superintendent	_x_	_____
Gregory Brennan, Interim SBA/BS	_____	_x_
Joseph Garcia, Esq. – Board Atty.	_x_	_____

3. **FLAG SALUTE - FOLLOWED BY A MOMENT OF SILENCE OR PRAYER**

4. **MISSION STATEMENT - The mission of the Montague Township School District is to provide the best educational experience and opportunities to realize the potential of every child.**

5. **LEGAL NOTICE - 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.**

6. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Township Board of Education recess and proceed to executive session to discuss personnel matters and legal issues. Action may or may not be taken.

Motion to open Executive Session at 6:32 p.m.

Motion Andree Campbell 2nd Paul Brislin Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to close Executive Session at 7:33 p.m.

Christopher Bell 2nd Andree Campbell Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Motion Paul Brislin 2nd Tasha DeGeorge Voice Vote: All in Favor

NOTE TO PUBLIC THAT MICHAEL ZERNHELT JOIN EXECUTIVE SESSION BY PHONE AND IS JOINING MEETING BY PHONE AT THIS TIME.

7. CSA REPORT - JAMES ANDRIAC - Thanked Dave Miller and custodians for how wonderful the building looks. Thanked Mr. Romano and Ms. Coppolino for their work on the roster. Preschool orientation is at 10AM on August 31, 2023 and Kindergarten orientation is at 1PM on August 31, 2023. Our first day of school is Tuesday, September 5, 2023. Back to school night is September 14, 2023. Our current enrollment as of today is 308 with 4 new students showing up this morning so we will be at 312. We have had 40+ new students entering the district since the summer. All pertinent information for parents is currently active on parent portals online. All welcome back packets have been sent out and should have been received by parents last week. Ms. Holstein did reiterate that the school does look wonderful. Mr. Andriac stated that teachers have even commented that this year is the best year the school has looked coming back from the summer.

8. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT - BARBARA HOLSTEIN - Ms. Holstein stated that the entire trim and roof have been done and all has been done on a zero percent increase. Has not heard any movement on the School Business Administration Association's push to try to remove the S endorsement. There are lots of things going on around the State. There may be another COVID breakdown. Making a statement as Board President and not for the rest of the Board but will do everything in my power to make sure that this building is not shut down again. If we have to go back to any kind of remote learning to make people happy, I would like to make it optional and the building to fully stay open. Masks would be optional and remote learning would be optional and that would be what I would envision. I will do everything possible to work with this board so that we will not close this school ever again.

9. PUBLIC SESSION – AGENDA ITEMS

Public comment is invited on all matters pertaining to the school district. All participants shall be permitted four (4) minutes to speak and shall state their name, place of residence, and group affiliation, if appropriate. The board uses the public comment 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.

Motion to open Public Comment at 7:39 p.m.

Motion Tasha DeGeorge 2nd Andree Campbell Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to close Public Comment at 7:40 p.m.

Motion Paul Brislin 2nd Tasha DeGeorge Voice Vote: All in Favor

10. FINANCE - CONSENT AGENDA FOR ITEMS F-1 TO F-2 Motion by Barbara Holstein, seconded by Tasha DeGeorge

F-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the SFA to SFA Vended Meals Contract with the High Point Regional High School BOE for the 2023-24 school year.

F-2 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Board Secretary's Report and the Treasurer of the School's Monies Report for the month of May, 2023. They are both in agreement.

F-3 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve an agreement between Montague Township School District and PLC Associates, LLC in the amount of \$134,150.00 for the below professional development items:

Deliverable #6:	Teaching and Learning - The Foundational Five - A Powerful Model for High Impact Teaching and Learning	\$ 96,700.00
Deliverable #7:	Leveraged Leadership - A Systems Approach to High Performance	<u>\$ 37,450.00</u>
Total		\$134,150.00

F-4 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the 23-24 Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement officials.

Roll Call	Bell	Brislin	Campbell	DeGeorge	Holstein	Johnson	Zernhelt	Total
YES	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

11. PERSONNEL - CONSENT AGENDA FOR ITEMS P-1 THROUGH P-3 AND P-6
Motion by Barbara Holstein, seconded by Michael Zernhelt

Note - Michael Zernhelt arrived at the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

P-1 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve **MICHAEL A. ROSSI, JR., Ph.D., Superintendent, Lenape Valley Regional HS**, as the mentor to James Andriac, Acting Superintendent for the 2023-2024 school year with the associated fee of \$2,500.00.

P-2 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve **MICHAEL BUSSOW** as School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, pending background check, if needed, effective September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 at an annual rate of \$85,000.00 (prorated).

P-3 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve **JENNIFER VANKIRK** as Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant (LDTC), Step I/MA+30, for the 2023-2024 school year, pending background check, if needed, commencing August 30, 2023.

P-6 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education accept the resignation of Employee #4750035 effective August 22nd, 2023.

Roll Call	Bell	Brislin	Campbell	DeGeorge	Holstein	Johnson	Zernhelt	Total
YES	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

~~**P-4 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approved the creation of Monty's Social Committee Club.~~
OMITTED - NO ACTION TO BE TAKEN

Moved:

Seconded:

Discussion:

Roll Call	Bell	Brislin	Campbell	DeGeorge	Holstein	Johnson	Zernhelt	Total
YES								
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

MOTION TO AMEND P-5 BY Christopher Bell, second by Tasha DeGeorge

P-5 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approved **DANA BERRY and MELINDA TANZOLA** as the Community Outreach Liaisons with a stipend of \$2,500 each for the 2023-2024 school year.

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge

Seconded: Christopher Bell

Discussion: Ms. Holstein liked how they reached this conclusion and thanked everyone for their contributions.

Roll Call	Bell	Brislin	Campbell	DeGeorge	Holstein	Johnson	Zernhelt	Total
YES	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

12. TRANSPORTATION

T-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the Resolution to participate in the Joint Transportation Agreement for the 2023-2024 school year with the Sussex County Regional Cooperative:

- a. Athlete and Field Trip Transportation (4% administration fee)g
- b. Public/Private/Charter/Choice Transportation (2% administration fee)
- c. Special Education Transportation (4% administration fee)

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge Seconded: Paul Brislin

Roll Call	Bell	Brislin	Campbell	DeGeorge	Holstein	Johnson	Zernhelt	Total
YES	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

13. LIAISON REPORTS

Montague PTA - Mr. Andriac - First PTA meeting is September 19, 2023 in the cafeteria at 7PM, Mum sale is Sept. 20 and car show is Sept. 30.

14. PUBLIC SESSION

Public comment is invited on all matters pertaining to the school district. All participants shall be permitted four (4) minutes to speak and shall state their name, place of residence, and group affiliation, if appropriate.

The board uses the public comment 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.

Motion to open Public Comment at 7:46 p.m.
 Motion Barbara Holstein 2nd Tasha DeGeorge Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to close Public Comment at 7:46 p.m.
 Motion Barbara Holstein 2nd Christopher Bell Voice Vote: All in Favor

15. NEW BUSINESS - Painters for gymnasium

Resolution as per the Acting School Superintendent the Board would like to hire CertaPro Painters to come in and repaint the gym. The quoted amount is \$5,274.48.

Moved: Paul Brislin Seconded: Andree Campbell Discussion: Christopher Bell wanted it noted and commended to Mr. Andriac for getting 3 bids and diligently researching this to get this contract. Mr. Zernhelt asked if we are going to reupholster the blue mats? Mr. Andriac said we are getting new mats.

Roll Call	Bell	Brislin	Campbell	DeGeorge	Holstein	Johnson	Zernhelt	Total
YES	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

16. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Tasha DeGeorge 2nd Michael Zerhelt Voice Vote: All in Favor
Time of Adjournment: 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Berry

DANA BERRY
Administrative Assistant to the Board Secretary