

**Montague Township Board of Education Meeting  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
July 20, 2020  
6:00 pm**

**I. Call to Order: 6:00pm**

**II. Roll Call**

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Dale Bouma		x
Paul Brislin	X	
Jennifer Caramucci	X	
Danielle Christmann	X	
Billy Underwood	X	Left meeting at 9:42pm
Charles Teufert, Vice President	X	
Glen Plotsky, President	X	

Others Present:

Timothy Capone - Chief School Administrator  
Maria Costa – Board Secretary- Remote

**III. Flag Salute**

**IV. 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.**

**V. 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.**

**VI. Announcement of Executive Session**

**VII. 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 6:01pm  
Motion Jennifer Caramucci 2<sup>nd</sup> Charles Teufert  
All in Favor

Motion to close Executive Session at 7:06pm  
Motion Charles Teufert 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Brislin  
All in Favor

Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at 7:06pm  
Motion Charles Teufert 2<sup>nd</sup> Danielle Christmann  
All in Favor

### **VIII. Board Retreat**

#### **➤ Discussion**

- Mr. Capone stated at the last meeting, he gave out the self-evaluation of the board based on metrics of the New Jersey School Board.
- The Montague Board of Education discussed and did a review of the self-evaluation form.

### **Board Goals**

- **Discussion**
  - The Montague Board of Education discussed Board Goals for the 2020 - 2021 School Year.

### **Potential Goals:**

- Mr. Brislin will like to utilize the expertise of the residents from the Montague community regarding board goals (writing grants).
- Mr. Capone stated that this is problematic to have a self - appointed expert come and have their opinion heard without facts and only hearsay. Because someone has an opinion does not mean that they are experts in a certain area. This is problematic unless it fits with the Board's strategic plans. Mr. Capone suggested to come up with a project first and give to a stakeholder group.
- Mr. Plotsky stated if there is a specific item, bring it to the board, and put out a feeler.

### **Board Goals:**

**GOAL 1 Finalize the Port Jervis send/ receive process.**

**GOAL 2 Finalize reopening plan.**

**GOAL 3 Finalize all contracts to ensure district stability**

- Mr. Capone stated that by purchasing equipment, increase in the personnel for cooking food in the cafeteria, will most likely not be a lower cost than the current process of receiving food from Port Jervis. It may be advantageous for the students for Montague to have food handled by the Montague Township School rather than receiving lunch from Port Jervis.

**GOAL 4 Establish communication committee.**

- Danielle Christmann suggested Board of Committee instead of Board as a whole
- The Board discussed the difference of a board of a whole that finds out information at the same time rather than the board of committee that doesn't find out information at the same time.
- Mr. Brislin suggested the extension of the Montague Township school parking as a goal.
- Mrs. Christmann suggested more organization for the library.
- Mrs. Caramucci recommended that because of the uncertainty of school due to COVID this year; it is better to put these on hold.
- Mr. Capone stated deciding on the board goals starts with these types of ideas and prioritizing them, that way they can specifically be put in the budget as new additions. At the next meeting,

review the potential goals and where they fit in and how much money you need to complete the board goals.

Mr. Plotsky entertained motion for recess until 9:05PM.  
All in Favor.

Mr. Plotsky entertained motion to reopen meeting at 9:05pm.  
Mr. Charles Teufert motioned.  
Mrs. Caramucci seconded.  
All in Favor.

- Mrs. Christmann suggested to bring back an enrichment program at the school.
  - Mr. Capone stated it is something that additional information can be provided along with policy and regulations to have a discussion.

#### **IX. CSA Report**

- Mr. Capone stated that at the last meeting, it was stated that the Montague Township School reached out to the parents with students coming to school in the fall. Multiple messages left for all families for their feedback to be part of the decision-making process.
  - 82% rate of return.
  - A survey wasn't done because the return rate was 20%.
  - A module of 100% Virtual, 100% In School, and Hybrid.
  - Numbers were split in thirds as to which option parents prefer.
- The Governor made an announcement today, that later this week there will be additional guidance.
- This will be a work in progress.
- The Leadership team will have the finalized plan to facilitate school 100% Virtual, 100% in school, and Hybrid by the next meeting.

#### **X. SBA Report – None**

#### **XI. Correspondence**

Mr. Plotsky received a letter from the Department of Education regarding the possible change to the send/receive agreement.

Mr. Plotsky made a motion for an amended correspondence Title and Delete article 12 in the agenda.

Motion by Charles Teufert.  
Seconded by Jennifer Caramucci.  
All in Favor.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE PUBLIC ON THIS 20<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JULY 2020 REGARDING THE MATTER OF IN RE: PETITION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A SENDING-RECEIVING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PORT JERVIS BOARD OF EDUCATION**

On December 24, 2019, the Montague Board of Education filed a petition with the Commissioner of Education seeking to terminate its current sending-receiving relationship with the

High Point Regional Board of Education and enter into a new sending-receiving relationship with the Port Jervis Board of Education to educate Montague's students in grades 9-12.

The High Point Regional Board of Education has not opposed this petition and the Port Jervis Board of Education supports this petition.

On July 15, 2020, the Acting Director of the Bureau of Controversies and Disputes for the Department of Education, Jennifer Killough-Herrera, ordered that members of the public have the opportunity to comment on the proposed new sending-receiving relationship between Montague and Port Jervis. As such, pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:3-6.1*, the record in this matter shall remain open for a period of 20 days in order to allow the public an opportunity to comment. This 20-day period shall begin to run on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020.

The public shall have 20 days from today to submit any written comments to the Commissioner of Education, at the following address: PO Box 500, Trenton, New Jersey 08625. Comments cannot exceed 10 pages in length and must be submitted to the Commissioner of Education in duplicate (that is, two copies must be sent to the Commissioner). Pursuant to the regulation, the comments shall address the following question: Will the proposed sending-receiving relationship between Montague and Port Jervis, whereby Montague students in grades 9-12 would attend Port Jervis High School, result in a substantial negative impact on any of the affected districts in one or more of the following areas: financial implications; quality of education received by students; and racial composition of the student populations.

Any person or entity that submits comments to the Commissioner is required also to serve a copy at the same time upon Montague, High Point Regional, and Port Jervis at the following addresses. Please note that all three must be copied.

(1) Vito A. Gagliardi, Jr., Esq.  
Porzio, Bromberg & Newman, PC  
100 Southgate Parkway  
Morristown, NJ 07960  
**Counsel for Montague**

(2) Douglas Silvestro, Esq.  
BUSCH LAW GROUP, LLC  
450 Main Street  
Metuchen, New Jersey 08840  
**Counsel for High Point Regional**

(3) Thomas Scapoli, Esq.  
Ingerman Smith, LLP  
550 Mamaroneck Avenue, Suite 209  
Harrison, New York 10528  
**Counsel for Port Jervis**

Anyone filing comments with the Commissioner must include with his/her comments a signed statement showing proof of service in the following form:

I certify that on \_\_\_\_\_, which is the same date that I mailed two copies of the comments included herein to the Commissioner of Education, I mailed copies of the comments to the legal counsel for the Board of Education of Montague, the Board of Education of High Point Regional, and the Board of Education of Port Jervis at the addresses stated in the notice regarding public comment.

Once all comments are received, Montague, High Point Regional, and Port Jervis will have 20 days to file any reply.

**XII. Approval of Minutes**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the minutes of the July 13, 2020 board meeting.

**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								
ABSENT	X							1

**XIII. 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.**

**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.**

**Motion to open public comment at 9:16pm**

Motion Mrs. Caramucci 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs. Christmann

All in Favor

**Tasha De George**

- Concerned residents and parents are being ignored. Questioned why there wasn't email address Contacts on the correspondence.
- Mr. Plotsky stated that the correspondence was received from the DOE office without email address contacts and cannot be edited.

**Eleanor Murphy**

- Believes the Port Jervis send/ receive is ridiculous and believes it is a good idea to have community members involved.
- Mr. Plotsky stated if the send/ receive relationship is changed, if we change the send receive relationship, not terminating anyone right to attend High Point.
- Adopt a new send receive in Port Jervis, a student can attend any NJ High School as well as Port Jervis and increase the number of technical programs.

**Motion to close public comment at 9:27pm**

Motion Mrs. Caramucci 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Underwood  
All in Favor.

**XIV. Action Items**

**A-1 BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of 9323/9324 Agenda Preparation /Advance Delivery of Meeting Material (see attached)

- Discussion
- Mr. Brislin clarified that the change of the policy is change sufficient to 72 hours.
- Mr. Capone stated for the board members to be better prepared and the public to have all the information prior to the board meeting to keep the policy as is.
- Mrs. Caramucci explained the previous process was disastrous.

**Moved:** Paul Brislin

**Seconded:** Danielle Christmann

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES		X		X				2
NO			X		X	X	X	4
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT	X							1

**XV. Financial Items**

**F-1 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve June 30, 2020 Bill List attached and listed below:

- Discussion
  - Mr. Brislin questioned the last item on page 2 regarding the Port Jervis Cafeteria transaction.
  - Mr. Plotsky clarified that the service was continued, the Montague Township School District received food and provided to the students who needed it.
  - Mr. Brislin questioned the NJ Herald transaction, the check should not be made to the NJ Herald because of the new ownership of the NJ Herald. Mr. Plotsky stated it should be the NJ Herald.

	Check Numbers	Amount
Regular Bill List	#A:25672-A:25687	\$42,659.47
Lunch Program	F: N1726	\$4,258.80

**Moved:** Jennifer Caramucci

**Seconded:** Billy Underwood

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

**F-2 BE IT RESOLVED,** at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve July 1, 2020 thru July 20, 2020 Bill List attached and listed below:

- Discussion
  - Paul Brislin questioned a transaction regarding an annual membership fee on the bill list, \$4,762.35.
  - Mr. Capone assumed the bill came in at that number and that's that amount was paid.

	Check Numbers	Amount
Regular Bill List	#A:N0714-N0715	
	A:25688-A:25701	\$150,067.34

**Moved:** Jennifer Caramucci

**Seconded:** Billy Underwood

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

**P-1 BE IT RESOLVED,** at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve Michelle Visco as a Virtual Summer School Teacher for the summer of 2020 according to the negotiated MEA hourly rate.

**Moved:** Jennifer Caramucci

**Seconded:** Danielle Christmann

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

## **XVI. 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.**

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### **Motion to open public comment at 9:42pm**

Motion Jennifer Caramucci 2<sup>nd</sup> Charles Teufert

All in Favor

### **John Mannion**

- Commented on the board self - evaluation and suggested to have the letter put in front of the community regarding the platform that the board member ran on.

### **Motion to close public comment at 9:51pm**

Motion Jennifer Caramucci 2<sup>nd</sup> Charles Teufert

All in Favor.

## **XVIII. Unfinished Business**

## **XIX. New Business**

**Paul Brislin** motioned to post the backup documents on the Montague School website along with the agenda.

Danielle Christmann **seconded.**

- Mr. Plotsky motioned to table Paul Brislin's original motion upon review of the current policy and propose amendment if needed.

### **Charles Teufert Motion**

**Jennifer Caramucci** seconded.

All in Favor

- Mr. Capone stated to refer to the policy, first reading then second reading. He stated you cannot bypass that and make motions. Mr. Capone suggested to read the board packet,

come with questions and prepared to the board meeting.

**Mr. Capone addressed:**

- Every comment is valid is not valid. Just because someone has something to say does not mean it is valid. Mrs. Murphy's comment in the public session made an invalid comment saying that taxes were raised at 14%. Mr. Capone is willing to sit with any community member with questions to ensure they have accurate information and not hearsay. Mr. Capone stated that we cannot make the same mistakes.
- Mr. Capone highlighted and commended the board that with board goals, the strategic plan can be put in place.

**XX. Executive Session if necessary:**

**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 \_\_\_\_pm  
Motion \_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_ All in Favor/Opposed

Motion to close Executive Session at \_\_\_\_pm  
Motion \_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_ All in Favor/Opposed

Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at \_\_\_\_pm  
Motion \_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_ All in Favor/Opposed

**XXI. Adjournment**

Motion Jennifer Caramucci 2<sup>nd</sup> Charles Teufert  
All in Favor  
Time of Adjournment: 10:01pm