

**Montague Township Board of Education Meeting  
Regular Action Meeting Minutes  
January 8, 2025  
Immediately Following the Reorganization Meeting**

**1. CALL TO ORDER at 6:50 p.m.**

**2. ROLL CALL**

	Present	Absent
Christopher Bell	x	
Paul Brislin, Vice President	x	
Andree Campbell, President	x	
Tasha DeGeorge	x	
Jaime Johnson	x	
Caitln Statkus	x	
Michael Zernhelt	x	

Others Present:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
James Andriac, Superintendent	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Michael Bussow, SBA/BS	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Joseph Garcia, Esq., Board Atty.	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Dana Berry, Asst. to Bd. Sec.	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>

**3. 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.**

**4. 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.**

**5. PRESENTATION - Anthony Ardito, auditor of Ardito & Co., presented audit ending June 30, 2024 to Board**

**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 7:24 p.m.

Motion Christopher Bell                      2<sup>nd</sup> Michael Zernhelt                      Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to close Executive Session at 8:05 p.m.

Motion 8:05 p.m.                      2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Brislin                      Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Motion Tasha DeGeorge                      2<sup>nd</sup> Jaime Johnson                      Voice Vote: All in Favor

**7. CSA REPORT - James Andriac, CSA - No HIB reports. Basketball won 2 games. TREP\$ was a hit and theater club is currently going on.**

**8. SBA REPORT - Michael Bussow, SBA - Gave update on facility projects.**

**9. PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Andree Campbell - Attended holiday concert and basketball game. Suggested doing employee of the month.**

**10. CORRESPONDENCE - Letter from Montague Senior Citizens to Ms. Jody Taylor regarding Bell Choir**

## 11. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Regular Meeting Minutes and the Executive Minutes of December 11, 2024.

**Moved: Tasha DeGeorge**

**Seconded: Jaime Johnson**

Roll Call	Bell	Brislin	Campbell	DeGeorge	Johnson	Statkus	Zernhelt	Total
YES	x	x	x	x	x		x	6
NO								
ABSTAIN						x		1
ABSENT								

## 12. 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 8:10 p.m.

Motion Christopher Bell 2<sup>nd</sup> Tasha DeGeorge

Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to close Public Comment at 8:10 p.m.

Motion Christopher Bell 2<sup>nd</sup> Michael Zernhelt

Voice Vote: All in Favor

## 13. FINANCE

**Andree Campbell asked for a motion to amend F-1 to eliminate A29316 - McCloskey from bill's list.**

**Moved: Caitlin Statkus**

**Seconded: Tasha DeGeorge**

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

**Resolution amended to read -**

**F-1 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the December 12, 2024 through January 8, 2025 - Bills List eliminating A29316 - check to McCloskey from Fund 12:

Fund 10	\$ 32,505.60
Fund 11	\$ 894,896.84
Fund 12	\$2,074,738.90
Fund 20	\$ 66,165.15
Fund 30	\$ 242,683.27
Fund 60	\$ 19,038.37
Fund 95	\$ 864.00
Grand Total	\$3,330,892.13

**Moved: Christopher Bell**

**Seconded: Tasha DeGeorge**

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

**Andree Campbell asked for a motion for a consent agenda for items F-2 through F-4**  
**Moved: Michael Zernhelt      Seconded: Jaime Johnson**

**F-2 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Board Secretary's Report and the Treasurer of School Monies Report for the Month of **November 2024** pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(C)3 and 4.

**F-3 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the transfers adjustments as of November 30, 2024.

**F-4 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the transfer of funds from the Capital Reserve account into the General Fund in the amount of \$400,000.00. The District will utilize these funds for the construction of four (4) Pre-K classrooms.

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

#### 14. PERSONNEL

**Andree Campbell asked for a motion for a consent agenda for items P-1 through P-2**  
**Moved: Christopher Bell      Seconded Michael Zernhelt**

**P-1 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve tuition reimbursement to **Employee #10870670** in the amount of \$5,111.40.

**P-2 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve **ELIZABETH SVEDE** as a full time paraprofessional at Step B (prorated) pending criminal history and background check with a start date of on or about January 9, 2025.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Montague Township Board of Education approve **ELIZABETH SVEDE** as a full time Special Education teacher at Step B/BA (prorated) upon her receipt of a NJ Certification effective immediately upon receipt of her NJ Certification through June 30, 2025.

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

#### 15. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

**BG-1 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township of Education approve the use of district facilities by the following community group(s) who has filed the proper application and permit form and have submitted proof of necessary insurance coverage:

DATE	LOCATION & TIME	REQUESTED BY	PURPOSE OF USE	# OF PEOPLE EXPECTED
Jan. 14, 2025 to March, 2025	Gym & Bathrooms 5PM to 8PM	Montague Little League	Baseball Fundamentals & Skills	Approx. 25 including coaches

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge

Seconded: Jaime Johnson

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

## 16. ADMINISTRATION

Andree Campbell asked for a motion for a consent agenda for items P-1 through P-2

Moved: Christopher Bell

Seconded Michael Zernhelt

**A-1 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education accept the annual audit prepared by Ardito & Company, LLC for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 and approve the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) prepared by Michael Bussow, SBA/BS.

**A-2 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the updated QSAC District Improvement Plan (DIP) for the Instruction and Program Section of the Quality Single Accountability Continuum.

**A-3 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Agreement and General Release entered into on January 8, 2025 between the Montague Township Board of Education and the parents of Student ID #100516.

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

## 17. 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 8:17 p.m.

Motion Paul Brislin

2<sup>nd</sup> Christopher Bell

Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to close Public Comment at 8:17 p.m.

Motion Michael Zernhelt

2<sup>nd</sup> Tasha DeGeorge

Voice Vote: All in Favor

**18. UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - Mr. Brislin inquired about the status of the digital sign and new Monty Bear costume.

**19. NEW BUSINESS** - Mr. Zernhelt gave an update on PTA events. Ms. Berry stated that all mittens, hats, etc., that were collected in December were donated to the Charing Closet in Newton. The BOE members said thank you for the BOE appreciation sign.

## 20. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Michael Zernhelt 2<sup>nd</sup> Tasha DeGeorge

Voice Vote: All in Favor Time of Adjournment: 8:22 p.m.

Next Meeting - February 12, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dana Berry*

DANA BERRY, Assistant to the Board Secretary