

**Montague Township Board of Education Meeting
Regular Action Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2025**

1. CALL TO ORDER at 6:30 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 | |
| Caitlin Statkus | x | |
| Michael Zernhelt | x | |

Others Present:

James Andriac, Superintendent
Michael Bussow, SBA/BS
Joseph Garcia, Esq., Board Atty.
Dana Berry, Asst. to Bd. Sec.

Present

 x
 x
 x
 x

Absent

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. Performance by the Montague Bell Choir

7. 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 6:45 p.m.

Motion Tasha DeGeorge 2nd Michael Zernhelt

Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to close Executive Session at 7:13 p.m.

Motion Paul Brislin 2nd Caitlin Statkus

Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Motion Michael Zernhelt 2nd Caitlin Statkus

Voice Vote: All in Favor

8. CSA REPORT - James Andriac, CSA - Announced April students of the month. This past Saturday the Girls on the Run finished up the season with their 5K run. Thank you to Ms. Pinzone and Ms. Frost for continuing the GOTR Program. The school Art show will be May 21, 2025. We had our last pep rally this past Friday where we showed off the new basketball banner. Thank you to Mr. Zernhelt for donating that. Our track team had another great outing. Our boys' team came in 2nd place overall. They have their final meet for county on Tuesday, May 20. Field Day is May 30, 2025 with June 6, 2025 as a rain date. Whatever day Field Day is on will be a half day. PreK Graduation is June 13, 2025 and 8th Grade Graduation is June 17, 2025 at 6PM in the gym.

9. SBA REPORT - Michael Bussow, SBA - Gave update on PreK construction. In the budget we have the opportunity to make other adjustments to the property. We're looking at replacing the sidewalk in front of the building as one option. The other option would be repairing the side parking lot. We are waiting for a cost to come in on that. One of those two projects could be incorporated into the cost of the contract that we have so it would be no additional cost to us. Both were concerns of the insurance inspection. Item A-4 on the agenda is the Climate and Culture Grant that Ms. Jeskey has been working on. That will allow a lot of time saving features for our staff and involve some of our students in projects around the building.

10. 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 April 30, 2025.

Moved: Paul Brislin

Seconded: Jaime Johnson:

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

11. 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 7:20 p.m.

Motion Michael Zernhelt

2nd Paul Brislin

Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to close Public Comment at 7:20 p.m.

Motion Tasha DeGeorge

2nd Michael Zernhelt Voice Vote: All in Favor

12. FINANCE

Motion to approve Resolutions F-1 through F-8 as listed below:

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge

Seconded: Michael Zernhelt

Discussion: Ms. Statkus asked about F-7 the Flex Grant Consulting Services. Have they helped us in the past? Mr. Andriac stated that at the Town Council meeting they mentioned that they use Millenium. If we can make \$100,000 to \$200,000 off of grants that we haven't been seeing, that would be great for the school. If it doesn't work we can cancel it next year. It's a one year contract. Mr. Bussow stated that a lot of townships use this company. Ms. DeGeorge said that the town gets an email every Wednesday of new grants available. Ms. Statkus asked about the fees. Mr. Andriac said there is an annual fee of \$4,000 plus \$150 per hour for the grant process. Ms. Berry explained that we would get a cost estimate before going ahead with the grant. Mr. Brislin thinks it is a great deal. Mr. Brislin asked how much did the Ardito fee go up. Mr. Bussow said less than 2%.

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

F-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the May 1, 2025 through May 14, 2025 - Bill List below:

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Fund 10 | \$ 18,476.00 |
| Fund 11 | \$399,407.61 |
| Fund 12 | \$ 16,125.00 |
| Fund 20 | \$ 4,648.18 |
| Fund 30 | \$408,828.30 |
| Fund 60 | \$ 15,957.70 |
| Grand Total | \$863,442.79 |

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 **March 2025** 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 from March 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025.

F-4 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the submission of the Application for Extraordinary Special Education Aid (EXAID) application for fiscal year 2024-2025 and acceptance of the grant award.

F-5 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the revised Contract for Educational Services for Student #100280 reflecting a change in classification.

F-6 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Shared Services Agreement for Curriculum Writing and Consultation Services between the Frankford Township School District and the Montague Township School District commencing July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 for the amount of \$25,000.

F-7 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Service Agreement for the provision of Flex Grant Consulting Services between Millennium Strategies and Montague Township School District for a twelve (12) month period commencing on June 1, 2025 with an annual cost of \$4,000.00 and an additional cost of \$150.00 per hour for the use of Millennium Strategies Project Support Services when requested by the School District and mutually agreed to by the Consultant.

F-8 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve to retain Ardito & Company, LLC to provide auditing services necessary for the audit ending June 30, 2025 in conjunction with the engagement letter submitted on May 8, 2025. The cost for their services is \$31,869.00.

13. PERSONNEL

Motion to approve Resolutions P-1 through P-13 listed below:

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge

Seconded: Paul Brislin:

| Roll Call | Bell | Brislin | Campbell | DeGeorge | Johnson | Statkus | Zernhelt | 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 Township Board of Education approve the following reappointments for the 2025-2026 school year and that contracts to employ be issued to the listed staff members:

ADMINISTRATIVE & NON-ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF (Individual Contracts)

Name & Position

Angel Bellis, Administrative Assistant

Dana Berry, Administrative Assistant to the Board Secretary/Human Resources/NJ Smart & Realtime Student Data Manager

James Cicalese, Transportation Supervisor

Alicia Citro, Vice Principal/Director of Early Childhood Education

Danielle Conklin, CSA Confidential Secretary/Food Service Coordinator/Public Relations

Tracy Greco, Cafeteria Manager

David Miller, Director of School Facilities

Rene Metzgar, Treasurer of School Monies

Mark Romano, Director of Technology/Project Manager

Melinda Tanzola, Administrative Assistant to School Business Administrator/Human Resources

P-2 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the following reappointments for the 2025-2026 school year and that contracts to employ be issued to the listed staff members:

TEACHERS (Collective Agreement) - TENURED

Name & Position

Jennifer Battikha, Elementary School Teacher

Carl Ferriere, Elementary School Teacher with Mathematics Specialization in Grades 5-8

Lorie Jeskey, Elementary School Teacher/Teacher of English/Teacher of the Handicapped

Clancey Lane, Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6/Elementary School with Subject Matter Specialization:World Language/Spanish in Grades 5-8

Korinn Loriz, Teacher of Preschool through Grade 3/Teacher of Students with Disabilities

Melissa Neamand, Teacher of Art/Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6

Brenten Runne, Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6/Reading Specialist

Rachel Sikora, Teacher of Agriculture and Biological Science

Chandler Smith, Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6/Teacher of Students with Disabilities

Devyn Smith, Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6/Teacher of Students with Disabilities

Jody Taylor, Teacher of Music

Debra Vigorito, Elementary School Teacher

P-3 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the following reappointments for the 2025-2026 school year and that contracts to employ be issued to the listed staff members:

TEACHERS (Collective Agreement) - NON-TENURED

Name & Position

Stacey Blasdell, Elementary School Teacher/Teacher of the Handicapped

Maria Bongo, Speech Therapist

Danielle Christimann, Elementary School Teacher Grades K-8

Jessica Coppolino, School Library Media Specialist/Teacher of English

Taylor DeMarco, Occupational Therapist

Lawrence Doto, Elementary School Teacher in Grades K - 6/Students with Disabilities

Samantha Frost, School Social Worker/McKinney-Vento Liaison

Carol Geisel, Teacher of Preschool through Grade 3

Laura Gloss, Teacher of Preschool through Grade 3

Taylor Grant, Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6/Teacher of Students with Disabilities

Katelyn Hendrickson, BCBA (shared)

Molloy Jacobs, Teacher of Health and Physical Education

Melanie Linder, Psychologist

Annie Lutz, Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6

Kerry McCormick, Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6

Kelsey Miley, Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6/Teacher of Students with Disabilities

Elizabeth Palazzo, Elementary School Teacher in Grades K-6/Teacher of Students with Disabilities

Jessica Pierce, LDTC

Darah Pinzone, School Counselor

Jennifer Seminerio, Teacher of Preschool through Grade 3

Kayte Snyder, Elementary School Teacher in Grades K-6/Students with Disabilities/Middle School with Subject-Matter Specialization: Mathematics in Grades 5 - 8

Michael Spina, Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6/Elementary School with Subject Matter Specialization: Language Arts/Literacy Specialization in Grades 5 - 8

Megan Stewart, School Counselor

Elizabeth Svede, Elementary School Teacher in Grades K - 6/Students with Disabilities

Scott Tanner, Teacher of Health and Physical Education

Emily Tattersall, Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6

Katlyn Vallis, Teacher of Preschool through Grade 3

Emily Weiss, Elementary School Teacher in Grades K-6

Alexandria Zeim, Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6

P-4 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the following reappointments for the 2025-2026 school year and that contracts to employ be issued to the listed staff members:

SECURITY & NURSE (Collective Agreement)

Michael D'Amore, Security Guard and School Safety Specialist

Allison Worzel, School Nurse

P-5 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the following reappointments for the 2025-2026 school year and that contracts to employ be issued to the listed staff members:

PRESCHOOL PARAPROFESSIONALS (Collective Agreement): PEA Grant

Andrea Conklin
Aileen Donovan
Meghan Putera
Carolina Young

P-6 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the following reappointments for the 2025-2026 school year and that contracts to employ be issued to the listed staff members:

NON-PRESCHOOL PARAPROFESSIONALS (Collective Agreement)

Andrea Bailey
Jessica Blake
Heather Braunius
Darren Herera
Tracy Edwards
Kristen Fazzio
Sade Rolle (Part-time)
Martha Lucia Salinas (Part-time)
Kaisha Schenk
Kimberly Sharry (Part-time)
Margaret Szala
Jacqueline Zinzi

P-7 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the following reappointments for the 2025-2026 school year and that contracts to employ be issued to the listed staff members:

CUSTODIANS (Collective Agreement)

Daniel Dawson
Tabatha Lynn-Hall
Hao La
Jason Saavedra

P-8 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the following reappointments for the 2025-2026 school year and that contracts to employ be issued to the listed staff members:

BUS DRIVERS (Collective Agreement)

Lyndsey Brigham
Gary Dennison
Kathleen Donovan
Tara Fansler
Ida Hickey
Shelley Martin

P-9 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the following reappointments for the 2025-2026 school year and that contracts to employ be issued to the listed staff members:

BUS AIDES (Collective Agreement)

Andrea Bailey
 Jessica Blake
 Heather Brauinis (as needed)
 Andrea Conklin (as needed)
 Aileen Donovan
 Kristen Fazzio
 Meghan Putera
 Martha Lucia Salinas (Part-time)
 Margaret Szala (as needed)
 Jacqueline Zinzi (as needed)

P-10 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the following reappointments for the 2025-2026 school year and that contracts to employ be issued to the listed staff members:

CAFETERIA STAFF (Collective Agreement)

Kitty Wurst, Lunch Aide (Part-time)

P-11 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve **MARISSA IRIZZARY**, as a substitute teacher, at the sub rate of \$115.00/day, pending substitute certification and criminal history and background check, for the 2024-2025 school year.

P-12 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education accept the resignation of Employee **#10870621** effective June 30, 2025.

P-13 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve **JACQUELINE MESSINA**, as a full-time Special Education teacher, Step D/BA, pending criminal history and background check, for the 2025-26SY effective on or about August 26, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

14. ADMINISTRATION

Motion to approve Resolutions A-1 through A-5 listed below

Moved: Paul Brislin

Seconded: Jaime Johnson:

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

A-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve **JAMES ANDRIAC, Superintendent**, as the Affirmative Action Officer for the 2025-2026 school year.

A-2 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the following Affirmative Action Team for the 2025-2026 school year: **James Andriac, AAO, Alicia Citro, Vice Principal, Darah Pinzone, Guidance Counselor and Dana Berry, Administrative Assistant.**

A-3 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education authorize the Affirmative Action team to conduct a needs assessment and develop a Comprehensive Equity Plan for 2025-2026 through 2027-2028.

A-4 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the submission of the Empowering Educators: The 2025 Teacher Climate and Culture Innovation grant application prepared by Lorie Jeskey and accept the funds if awarded in the amount of approximately \$43,046.00.

A-5 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the submission of the Funding for Optimal Comprehensive Universal Screeners (FOCUS) grant.

15. 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 7:28 p.m.

Motion Michael Zernhelt 2nd Jaime Johnson Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to close Public Comment at 7:28 p.m.

Motion Michael Zernhelt 2nd Paul Brislin Voice Vote: All in Favor

16. NEW BUSINESS - New Hire - This is under new business because it was put on after the agenda was posted.

BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve **JESSICA SMALLEY**, as a full-time teacher, Step B/BA, pending criminal history and background check, for the 2025-26SY effective on or about August 26, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Moved: Michael Zernhelt

Seconded: Paul Brislin:

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

17. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Tasha DeGeorge 2nd Paul Brislin

Voice Vote: All in Favor

Time of Adjournment: 7:30 p.m.

Next Meeting - Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Berry

DANA BERRY
Assistant to the Board Secretary