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**Montague Board of Education Meeting  
Special Meeting  
August 13, 2015**

**Call to Order**

**Roll Call**

	Present	Absent
Tacia Johnson	X	
Gayle Andriac	X	
Tom Bolen	X	
Diane Cole	X	
George Gelderman	X	
Sally Kurtzman	X	
Debra Osborne	X	

Others Present:

Janice L. Hodge, Chief School Administrator/Principal  
Gary Kraemer, Esq. Interim Board Counsel

**Flag Salute**

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 Middletown Times Herald Record.

Please note, the school's anti-bullying policy and how it applies to all; Board Members, Administration, Teachers, volunteers, parents, and members of the community. We are all to display behavior for the children of our community, so they can learn by example: not harass, intimidate, or bully others, either in person or writing, inclusive of via social media. It was brought to the attention of the Board and Administration, that just prior to a meeting earlier this year, as well as during the meeting, statements were made on social media by those in attendance at the meeting, which not only included insinuations and threats of violence which were both harassing, intimidating, and of course forms of bullying, but these comments were also supported by others in attendance. Therefore, as a safety precaution for the Board Members, Administration, public and students, the presence of the Constable has been requested at the meetings until these threats cease to exist.

**Open to Public (Any Items)**

As per NJSBA, Board of Education meetings are "a meeting in public, not a meeting of the public. Many people especially parents and community members, misunderstand the nature of a school board meeting. School boards provide leadership for what are typically multi-million dollar corporations. The board has important work to accomplish. And, to do that work, the board needs to be fully engaged around the table. The Open Meetings Act requires that public business be done in public, and that citizens have opportunity to observe, and comment, at every meeting."

Additionally, as per NJSA 2C:33-8, 10:4-12, and as adopted by Montague's Board of Education in Bylaw 0167, please remember the public participation shall be governed by the following rules:

1. A participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface - by an announcement of his/her name, place of residence, and group affiliation if appropriate;
2. Each statement by a participant shall be limited to 3 minute duration

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3. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard;

4. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board Members individually;

5. The presiding officer may:

a. Interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;

b. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;

c. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;

d. Call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action; and

e. Waive these rules when necessary for the protection of privacy or the efficient administration of the Board's business.

During this portion of the meeting, the residents are invited to address the Board with any comments or concerns that may be in respect to the operation of their school.

### **Motion to open public comment at 7:05 p.m.**

Motion by Mrs. Kurtzman, seconded by Mr. Gelderman

All in Favor

Motion Carried

Art Henn - concerned if Montague can offer theatre experience for students

### **Motion to close public comment at 7:15 p.m.**

Motion by Mr. Bolen, seconded by Mrs. Andriac

All in Favor

Motion Carried

### **Executive Session**

**BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education recess and proceed to Executive Session for the purpose of legal discussion of Port Jervis, High Point and Montague and confidential legal matters. Action may be taken after Executive Session.**

### **Motion to open Executive Session at 7:18 p.m.**

Motion by Mrs. Osborne, seconded by Mrs. Andriac

All in Favor

Motion Carried

**Mrs. Johnson, Board President, advised the session may take approximately two hours**

### **Motion to close Executive Session at 9:26 p.m.**

Motion by Mrs. Andriac, seconded by Mr. Gelderman

All in Favor

Motion Carried

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**Motion to resume Regular Meeting Agenda at 9:27 p.m.**

Motion by Mrs. Kurtzman, seconded by Mr. Gelderman  
All in Favor  
Motion Carried

**Administration**

**AD 1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the enrollment of Montague students in Port Jervis, High Point or Montague.**

Motion by Mrs. Kurtzman, seconded by Mrs. Andriac  
All in Favor  
Motion Carried

**ATTACHMENT AD-1**

**Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:38 p.m.**

Motion by Mr. Gelderman, seconded by Mr. Bolen  
All in Favor  
Motion Carried

**ATTACHMENT AD 1**

**Because of the actions of prior Boards, we find ourselves presently in a legal dilemma that will put us in jeopardy of being sued by both Port Jervis and High Point. Our investigation has shown, Commissioners of Education Cerf and Hespe, were misled and misinformed and also not provided with all relevant facts in the prior requests to revoke consent. The attorney who previously represented Montague in the requests to the Commissioners to withdraw consent as well as during the negotiation process with High Point, at that time also represented High Point. Port Jervis, with whom we have an existing contract, was never given notice of the request to withdraw consent. That contract provides for 5 years notice to terminate the contract. As a result we are faced with many other problems.**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Montague students and families are authorized to continue or enroll their children in Port Jervis, High Point, or Montague schools as appropriate.**

**And let it BE FURTHER RESOLVED Montague's Board Attorney immediately bring these urgent issues to the attention of Commissioner Hespe, Interim Executive County Superintendent Lamonte, Port Jervis, and High Point.**