

**Montague Board of Education Meeting
Special Meeting
August 25, 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
John W. Waycie, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Gary Kraemer, Esq. Interim Board Attorney

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 NJS 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
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 7:03 p.m.

Motion by Mrs. Kurtzman, seconded by Mr. Gelderman

All in Favor

Motion Carried

Mr. Mannion- email on social medial, how does a parent contact Mr. Bumpus, collusion, Board needs to investigate

Mrs. Bisl- just call Mr. Bumpus, questioned number students who responded, don't use money from this building on lawsuits

Mrs. Olenick- tried to contact Commissioner's office several times, disgusted with ant-Port Jervis people, Personal vendetta against her family, being bullied by High Point

Mrs. Blackburn- daughter still not registered in Port Jervis, called Commissioner, spoke with Dr. Lamonte
Dr. Ripley told daughter should be in High Point, will sign waiver

Mr. McCallum- son forced to go to High Point, Board should take legal action

Mrs. Spinapolic- called Mr. Bumpus office no reply

Ms. Harnson- 7 years ago- didn't want daughter there, now she is thriving, called Commissioner's office

Mr. Aumick- all my kids went to Port Jervis, maybe Commissioner needs a boot

Mr. Mannion- Board passed resolution, Port Jervis better than High Point

Mrs. Bisl- talking about since 2012, transition plan should have been followed

Mrs. Olenick- High Point bullying, State bullying, ethics complaints based on Montague kids

Mrs. Spinapolic- two referendums defeated

Motion to close public comment at 7:30 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 7:30 p.m.

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

Motion to close Executive Session at 10:20 p.m.

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

Motion to resume Regular Meeting Agenda at 10:20 p.m.

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

AD 1. WHEREAS the Montague Board of Education passed a resolution on August 13th, 2015 authorizing families to enroll their children in either Montague, Port Jervis, or High Point schools as appropriate; and

WHEREAS the Montague Board of Education currently remains contractually obligated to both Port Jervis City School District and High Point Regional School District Board of Education; and

WHEREAS the Montague Board of Education has previously advised the Port Jervis City School District that it intends to satisfy all tuition obligations on behalf of Montague Students enrolling in Port Jervis for the 2015/2016 school year; and

WHEREAS questions have arisen regarding the Montague Board of Education's commitment in that regard;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montague Board of Education shall satisfy all tuition obligations on behalf of Montague Students enrolling in Port Jervis for the 2015/2016 school year.

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

AD 2. WHEREAS the High Point Board of Education initiated litigation against the Montague Board of Education on or about August 20th, 2015; and

WHEREAS the Montague Board of Education currently remains contractually obligated to both Port Jervis City School District and High Point Regional School District Board of Education; and

WHEREAS to date, the Montague Board of Education has not provided the required 5 years prior notice to the Port Jervis City School District that it intends to withdraw from its contract with Port Jervis City School District; and

WHEREAS the Port Jervis City School District has advised the Montague Board of Education that it intends to enforce its contract with Montague Board of Education; and

WHEREAS the United States Constitution prohibits the impairment of that contract by the Commissioner of Education of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS the attorney formerly representing the Montague Board of Education had an irreconcilable and undisclosed conflict of interest in that she was simultaneously representing the High Point Regional School District Board of Education; and

WHEREAS the attorney formerly representing the Montague Board of Education has represented the High Point Regional School District continuously from approximately 2007 to the present day; and

WHEREAS High Point negotiated its contract with the Montague Board of Education in bad faith;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montague Board of Education authorizes and directs its legal counsel to take all necessary and appropriate steps to commence litigation against the High Point Regional School District to challenge the contract between the districts and to seek such further relief as may be necessary under the circumstances.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montague Board of Education hereby appoints Daniel M. Perez, Esq., as Special Counsel for litigation matters.

Motion by Mrs. Kurtzman, seconded by Mrs. Andriac
All in Favor (Except Mr. Bolen and Mr. Gelderman abstained)
Motion Carried

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting at 10:25 p.m.

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