

**Montague Board of Education Meeting
Regular Meeting
December 16, 2015**

Minutes

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	
Linda Spinapolice	X	

Others Present:

Janice L. Hodge, Chief School Administrator/Principal
John W. Waycie, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Gary Kraemer, Esq., Interim Board Attorney
Daniel Perez, Esq., Special 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 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.

Presentations: Mrs. Taylor- Bell Choir
Mr. Gregory- Semi-annual HIB Report
Mrs. Higbie- District PARCC Results

Approval of Minutes

November 18, 2015- Regular Meeting
Motion by Mrs. Kurtzman, seconded by Mr. Bolen
Correction noted- CSA goals was tabled

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

November 18, 2015- Executive Meeting #1

Motion by Mr. Gelderman, seconded by Mr. Bolen

Correction noted- Dan Perez not in attendance
Motion to approve revised by Mrs. Kurtzman, seconded Mr. Gelderman
All in Favor
Motion Carried

November 18, 2015- Executive Meeting #2

Motion by Mr. Bolen, seconded by Mr. Gelderman

All in Favor
Motion Carried

Superintendent Report

Thank you Mrs. Taylor and members of Bell Choir, who performed at the Foster Armstrong House. Winter Concert is tomorrow night, everyone is invited.

Thank you Mr. Gregory for HIB report

Thank you Mrs. Higbie for PARCC update, congratulations to faculty

Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Steve Taylor for their “annual basket of goodies”

Thank you to Mr. Bole and Mr. Gelderman for your service to the district and for your support

Congratulations to Mrs. Alles for achieving “zero” deficiencies on the Sussex County Board of Health immunization audit.

Congratulations to Mrs. Casaletto for being selected Sussex County Education Support Professional of the Year. Mrs. “C” has been with the District for 26 years
The Student Council clothing drive collected 2659 lbs and will receive a check for \$398.85

The Student Council Seasonal Hope toys were collected today.

Each year at this time, the school staff adopts a family to help out. With the MEA charity Fund and personal donations two families assisted this year.

Several handouts were distributed to Boar members.

As clarification: At last month’s High Point Principal’s meeting it was confirmed that the Assistant Principal position at Lafayette School was not being eliminated as reported here at the last Board meeting by a Board Member.

Board Committee Reports given by Committee chairs

Correspondence None

Liaison updates No reports

Open to Public (Any Items):

As a reminder for all, and 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**
- 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.

Ms. Johnson stated that public comment will be limited to total of 30 minutes and 3 minutes per person.

Motion to open public comment at 8:20 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Bolen, seconded by Mr. Gelderman

All in Favor

Motion Carried

Ms. Blasdell- MEA Pride held “Stop and Shop” on December 5th and send “thank you” notes to Montague Veterans for veterans Day. Thank you Mr. Quinn for your gift of a picture of “Brick House School”

Mrs. Goyette – LEAP teacher- Thank you to the PTA for the Chrome Books and lockers- Thank you Mrs. For your personal purchase of books every year

Mrs. Jeskey-President MEA- concerned about statement made previously the “next month’s bills will be on hold...” Ms. Johnson stated that there was no intention of staff not getting paid.

Mr. Mannion- stated there has been an irresponsible social media page in Montague, fear mongering, Cyber bullying

Mrs. Bisl- Thank you Mrs. Higbie, a lack of transparency, why tour building with two attorneys being paid, thank you Mr. Bolen and Mr. Gelderman

Ms. Holstein- thank you Mr. Bolen and Mr. Gelderman, thank you for milestone for NJ education

Mrs. DeGeorge – impression was that the teacher’s weren’t going to get paid, derogatory comments made by Board member

Mrs. Olenick- principals meeting minutes, High Point meetings not on website, what is time frame of Board response to individuals

Motion to close public comment at 8:37 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Bolen, seconded by Mr. Gelderman

All in Favor

Motion Carried

Committee Action Items None

Unfinished Business

Mrs. Cole suggested the District possible pre-school grant funds that may be available and the possibility of a preschool program for general education students

Ms. Johnson stated that the website continues to be updated

Administration

AD 1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the submission of the 2015 Nursing Plan.

ATTACHMENT AD 1

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

Personnel

P 1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education retroactively ratify Mrs. Fran Varacalli as homebound instructor from November 30, 2015 to December 22, 2015 for student CM awaiting out of district placement.

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

Finance/Insurance

FI 1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education accept the Board Secretary's Financial Report for the month of September 2015 (FY2016).

ATTACHMENT FI 1

Motion by Mr. Bolen, seconded by Mr. Gelderman
Vote 6-0
Motion Carried

FI 2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education accept the School Treasurer's Financial Report for the month of October 2015 (FY2016).

ATTACHMENT FI 2

Motion by Mr. Gelderman, seconded by Mr. Bolen
Vote 6-0
Motion Carried

FI 3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education accept the Board Secretary's Financial Report for the month of October 2015 (FY2016).

ATTACHMENT FI 3

Motion by Mr. Bolen, seconded by Mrs. Kurtzman
Vote 6-0
Motion Carried

FI 4. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the transfers as listed for December 16, 2015.

ATTACHMENT FI 4

Motion by Mr. Gelderman, seconded by Mr. Bolen
Vote 6-0
Motion Carried

FI 5. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the December 16, 2015 Bill List attached and listed below:

ATTACHMENT FI 5

	<u>Check Numbers</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Regular Bill List	#21894 - #22000	\$466,356.58
Lunch Program	#1618 - #1619	\$10,711.14
Student Council	#310 - #311	\$131.26

Motion by Mrs. Kurtzman, seconded by Mr. Gelderman
Vote 5-1 (Mr. Bolen- no)
Motion carried

FI 6. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education certifies that pursuant to NJAC 6A: 23A-16.10, as of October 31, 2015 the appropriations section of the budget did not reflect any over expenditures in any of the major accounts or funds, and based upon the appropriation balances reflected and the advice of district officials, we have no reason to doubt that the district has sufficient funds available to meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Motion by Mr. Gelderman, seconded by Mr. Bolen
Vote 6-0
Motion Carried

Building, Grounds and Transportation

BGT 1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the submission of the 2015 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan.

ATTACHMENT BGT 1

Motion by Mr. Bolen, seconded by Mrs. Kurtzman
Vote 6-0
Motion Carried

Executive Session

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education will recess and proceed to Executive Session for legal matters: Port Jervis/ High Point/ Montague send/receive, tuition payments, confidential legal matters and personnel matters. Following Executive Session, the public will be made aware of when the Board anticipates those matters which can be made public should be resolved. (Action may or may not be taken.)

Motion to open Executive Session at 9:10 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Bolen, seconded by Mrs. Spinapolice
All in Favor
Motion Carried

Motion to close Executive Session at 11:04 p.m.

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

Motion to resume Regular Meeting Agenda at 11:04 p.m.

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

As Mr. Derin requested, tuition for Mr. Derin's daughter, Mackenzie Derin a current student at High Point was discussed in public..

AD-2

WHEREAS: The August 13, 2013 sending/receiving agreement between High Point Regional Board of Education and Montague Township Board of Education does not contemplate that the Montague Township Board of Education will send the present Montague 11th and 12th graders in the general education program to High Point Regional High School; and

WHEREAS: A number of Montague Township 11th and 12th graders in the regular education program are enrolled in High Point High School, contrary to the sending/receiving agreement; and

WHEREAS: The Montague Township Board of Education has no contractual obligation to pay tuition to High Point Regional Board of Education for such 11th and 12th grade students;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Montague Township Board Secretary notify High Point Board of Education in writing that Montague Township Board of Education will not pay tuition, fees, or other charges to the High Point Regional Board of Education for any currently enrolled Montague 11th and 12th grade students in the general education program. This resolution shall remain in effect through the end of the 2015/2016 school year.

Motion by Mrs. Kurtzman, seconded by Mrs. Cole
Vote 5 – 2 (No- Mr. Bolen/Mr. Gelderman)
Motion Carried

Adjournment

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