

**Montague Board of Education Meeting
Regular Meeting
September 23, 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
Sharon Reiners, Board Secretary Pro-Temp for John W. Waycie
Joseph Corazza, Esq. for 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.

Presentation: Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Self Assessment by Christopher Gregory, Assistant Principal/District Anti-Bully Coordinator.

Approval of Minutes

August 25, 2015- Special Meeting
Motion by Mrs. Kurtzman, seconded by Mrs. Andriac
All in Favor

Motion Carried

August 25, 2015- Executive Meeting
August 26, 2015- Regular Meeting
August 26, 2015- Executive Meeting
September 9, 2015- Special Meeting
September 9, 2015- Executive Meeting

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

Superintendent Report B

Back to School Night is tomorrow, join us at 6pm for deserts (thank you PTA), the school Store "Monty's Clubhouse" will be open in lower wing
September 30th – 7th annual Exercise USA-10 continuous hours- we represent NJ 2:30-2:45 pm- Thank you Mrs. Wright for organizing this activity
Student Board presentations will begin next month with archery
Article 16 Memorandum of Agreement on agenda tonight
QSAC SOA is required annually when full monitoring is not scheduled- QSAC Committee will complete self evaluation and report to Board in October

Board Committee Reports

None- Curriculum and policy meeting October 5th

Correspondence None

Liaison updates Mrs. Andriac reported on Port Jervis meeting
Mr. Gelderman- High Point- didn't attend

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.

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

Motion by Mr. Gelderman, seconded by Mrs. Andriac

All in Favor

Motion Carried

Mrs. Jeskey: She is proud to be the MEA president. Thanked the Board of the Seventh grade curriculum. Request the Board approve sports programs. Challenged the Board to make a motion for sports.

Mrs. Bisl: She was sporting the new shirts. Testing scores are on the parent portal. Concerned that sports is not on the agenda again. A present Board member ran on the “sports” theme. PTA has purchased iPads, Chromebooks, Lockers. Feels there is selective transparency with this board. Possible ethics issue with our present attorneys.

Mrs. Mikulski: No one is commenting on the sports issues. Will the board pay for Port Jervis tuition? Board does not take interest in the students at Port Jervis. High Point has a 94% graduation rate.

Ms. DeGeorge: Read a letter from her daughter Erica which stated there is nothing to look forward to.

Mrs. Campbell: Would like to have basketball continued this year.

Mr. Derin: Emphasize importance of sports for pre-teen students, it is invaluable. Why isn't the Commissioner's letter dated 9/2/15 on the website?

Mrs. Olenick: Student Handbook states no cell phones/devices are to be used in the school, but someone took pictures. Students need to have a way to state their concerns. Basketball should be considered past practice. Did the Board ever vote on sports? Alyssa wants to read the Principal's Principles, but it is for 7th graders.

Mrs. Spinapolicc: Do not remember the parents questioning the sports program previously, but she did. How many juniors do we have at High Point?

Tacia stated they can do an OPRA request for this information.

Mr. Taylor: Handed out information on the benefits of sports programs for the board to review.

Mr. Mannion: Feels this Board is being more transparent to the public. The district will benefit from the law suits once we are victorious. Believes in sports and Port Jervis has sports.

Mrs. Mikulski: The sports program is tied to litigation. Why was the sibling rule rescinded, it was in place already? Sports were discussed and it is important.

Miss. Anni Bisl (student): Please bring back basketball.

Ms. DeGeorge: She took pictures of the bus evacuation with her cell phone to get pictures for the yearbook.

Ms. Blackburn: Her daughter is doing well and is happy in Port Jervis School. Why is High Point is questioning Montague students about transition? She would not want her child to drive over Deckertown

Turnpike.

Mr. Mannion: Sports should not be withheld due to litigations. Bring us back to the way it was, rip up the High Point contract.

Ms. Holstein: The ethics violation of 7/28 dismissal was denied. The matter was found not to be frivolous and 7 of 11 sent to OAL

Mr. Perez: There were three ethics complaints on a current Board member; two have been dismissed. There have been no findings that anyone has acted unethical.

Mr. Mannion: If an unethical claim has not been filed, it does not mean one has not been committed.

Mrs. Olenick: Feels the Board is taking all public comments seriously. Past president said she did not answer emails.

Motion to close public comment at 8:10 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Gelderman, seconded by Mrs. Andriac

All in Favor

Motion Carried

Committee Action Items Personnel Committee will revisit sports

Unfinished Business Sound system- Mr. Gelderman provided quote

Administration

AD 1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the Tuition Contract Agreement for the 2015-2016 school year with the Sussex County Vocational Board of Education at a tuition cost of \$2,100 per student, total estimated cost \$155,400.

Motion to Table by Mrs. Cole, seconded by Mrs. Andriac

All in Favor (except Mr. Bolen)

Motion Carried

AD 2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the 2015-2016 school year Special Education Tuition Contract (RL) with Hamburg Borough Board of Education at a cost of \$26,610.60.

Motion by Mrs. Andriac, seconded by Mr. Bolen

Vote 7-0

Motion Carried

AD 3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the submission of the Anti-Bullying Bills of Rights Self Assessment to the DOE.

Motion by Mr. Gelderman, seconded by Mr. Bolen
All in Favor
Motion carried
Vote 6-0-1 (Mr. Bolen- abstain)
Motion Carried

AD 4. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the submission of the annual Memorandum of Agreement Article 16 between Law Enforcement and School Officials to the Executive County Superintendent.

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

AD 5. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education appropriate funds to hire coaches for all sports consistent with student service for the 5th, 6th and 7th grades.

Motion by Mr. Bolen, seconded by Mr. Gelderman
Vote 2-5 (No- Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Kurtzman, Mrs. Andriac, Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Osborne)
Motion Fails

Personnel-

P 1. BE IT RESOLVED that the Montague Board of Education approve the September 23, 2015 travel expenses.

ATTACHMENT P-1

Motion by Mrs. Kurtzman, seconded by Mr. Gelderman
Vote 7-0
Motion Carried

P 2. BE IT RESOLVED that the Montague Board of Education approve Lorie Jeskey and Lynne Antonucci as Student Council Advisors. Stipend of \$800 each per MEA contract.

Motion Mr. Bolen, seconded by Mr. Gelderman
Vote 7-0
Motion Carried

Finance/Insurance

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

ATTACHMENT FI 1

Motion by Mr. Gelderman, seconded by Mrs. Kurtzman
Vote 6-0-1 (Mr. Bolen- abstain)
Motion Carried

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

ATTACHMENT FI 2

Motion by Mrs. Kurtzman, seconded by Mrs. Osborne
Vote 6-0-1 (Mr. Bolen- abstain)
Motion Carried

FI 3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the August 26, 2015 Bill List attached and listed below:

ATTACHMENT FI 3

	<u>Check Numbers</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Regular Bill List	#21701- #21768	\$382,787.29

Motion by Mrs. Kurtzman, seconded by Mr. Gelderman
Vote 4-0-3(Abstain- Mrs. Andriac, Mr. Bolen, Mrs. Cole)
Motion Carried

FI 4. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education certifies that pursuant to NJAC 6A: 23A-16.10, as of July 1, 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 Mrs. Kurtzman
Vote 6-0-1 (Mr. Bolen- abstain)
Motion Carried

Building, Grounds and Transportation

BGT 1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the 2015-2016 Joint Transportation Agreement with Kittatinny Regional High School at a cost of \$15,028.

Motion by Mr. Bolen, seconded by Mrs. Cole
Vote 7-0
Motion carried

BGT 2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the Parental Contract for Student Transportation(PH/MH) for July 1, 2015-August 12, 2015 and the September 1, 2015 – June 25, 2016 for \$2,850 and \$17,100 respectively, for a total cost of \$19,950.

Motion by Mrs. Andriac, seconded by Mrs. Kurtzman
Vote 7-0
Motion Carried

Executive Session

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education will recess and proceed to Executive Session to legal matters: Ethics Complaints, Port Jervis/ High Point/ Montague send/receive, and personnel matters (2014-2015 CSA and BS evaluations). 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 Mrs. Osborne, seconded by Mrs. Andriac
All in Favor
Motion Carried

Motion to close Executive Session at 10:40 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Gelderman, seconded by Mr. Bolen

All in Favor
Motion Carried

Motion to resume Regular Meeting Agenda at 10:40 p.m.

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

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Bolen, Seconded by Mr. Gelderman
All in Favor
Motion carried