

**Montague Board of Education Meeting
Minutes
May 23, 2016**

Call to Order

Roll Call

	Present	Absent
Tacia Johnson	X	
Diane Cole	X	
Gayle Andriac	X	
Sally Kurtzman	X	
Emma Masset	X	
Glen Plotsky	X	
Linda Spinapolice	X	

Others Present:

Janice L. Hodge, Chief School Administrator/Principal
Jan MacKenzie, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Gary Kraemer, Esq., Interim Board Attorney (ARRIVED 6:10)

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 last 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. Higbie- PARCC Results
Mrs. Jeskey- NJEA Sustainability Grant Opportunity

Approval of Minutes

May 9, 2016 Regular Meeting

Motion by Mr. Plotsky, 2nd by Mrs. Andriac

Yes: Mr. Plotsky, Mrs. Andriac, Mrs. Masset, Mrs. Cole, Ms. Johnson

Abstain: Mrs. Kurtzman, Mrs. Spinapolice

Motion Carried: Approved with changes as discussed

May 9, 2016 Executive Meeting

Motion by Mrs. Kurtzman, 2nd Mrs. Andriac

Yes: Mr. Plotsky, Mrs. Andriac, Mrs. Masset, Mrs. Cole, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Spinapolic

Abstain: Mrs. Kurtzman

Motion Carried

Superintendent Report

Mrs. Hodge thanked Mrs. Jeskey and Mrs. Higbie for their presentations.

Thank you to Mrs. Taylor for the wonderful concert Thursday night.

The Board is invited to the 7th Grade Team Open House, to be held at 6 PM tomorrow night. High Point vocal and instrumental music groups will be performing in an all-school assembly this Wednesday.

The High Point Freshman Welcome Picnic will be on Tuesday, May 31st.

Two Montague students, Emily and Stephanie Dalasio, had their poetry published through the Creative Communications Online Poetry & Prose Writing website. Their work will also be published in the site's annual volume. Thank you to their Language Arts teacher, Mrs. Coolong.

Board Committee Reports

Ms. Johnson reported on the May 18th Personnel Committee meeting, in which job descriptions, teaching assignments, and responsibilities were discussed. The plan is to compile recommendations submitted by BOE members. Another meeting will be held this week with Mr. Kraemer present by phone.

Correspondence

Liaison Updates

The next Port Jervis Board of Education meeting will be June 7th.

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 NJSBA 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 7:16 p.m.

Motion by Mrs. Kurtzman, 2nd by Mrs. Andriac

All in Favor

Motion carried

Christine Bisl -Fantastic news on test scores – top in Sussex County; congratulations to students and teachers

Have we looked into school choice for students to come to Montague?

Awesome concert last week – congratulation to Mrs. Taylor and the kids

Has anyone been able to tour Frankford or Lafayette schools?

What is the status of the agreement with the Commissioner?

How did the board maintain confidentiality with a BOE member phoning in?

Lunch duty helps teachers bond with the children in a different setting and makes Montague a family-style school

Mrs. Masset asked what “PARCC” stood for, and Monica Higbie responded that PARCC stands for Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

John Manion – Wondering if you are aware that our students have to wake at earlier hours to get the bus

Somebody has to represent the taxpayer

Montague is not top performing school that you say it is

This is a poor town
We pay high taxes
If this was a corporation, you would be bankrupt
Schools take the taxpayers' money
When I was in school, we had 25 kids to one teacher
This is a top-heavy corporation; let's act like a corporation
We spend a ridiculous amount of money
Montague is getting poorer
There are empty houses all over town
Everybody is so quick to congratulate people who are doing their job

Motion to close public comment at 7:25 p.m.
Motion by Mrs. Andriac, 2nd by Mrs. Spinapolic
All in Favor
Motion carried

Unfinished Business

To be added to the Workshop Agenda:

Roof Issues
Microphones/Sound system
Temporary Services
Bus Routes – transportation
Residency
Legal Fees
Property taxes
Windows
Policy
Personnel
Montague Educational Foundation
Preschool Tuition

Administration

AD 1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the 2016-2017 Ancillary Educational Services Agreement with the Sussex County Educational Services Commission.

ATTACHMENT AD 1

Motion by Mrs Kurtzman, 2nd by Mrs. Spinapolic
Yes: Mrs. Kurtzman, Mrs. Spinapolic, Ms Johnson, Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Masset, Mr. Plotsky, Mrs. Andriac
Motion carried

AD 2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the extended school year contract with Northern Hills Academy for (5514985094) at an estimated cost of \$14,480.64 (transportation rate pending).

ATTACHMENT AD 2

Motion by Mrs. Masset, 2nd by Mrs. Andriac

Yes: Mrs. Masset, Mr. Plotsky, Mrs. Andriac, Mrs. Kurtzman, Mrs. Spinapolice, Ms Johnson, Mrs. Cole
Motion carried

AD 3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the extended school year contract with Northern Hills Academy for (2454617903) at an estimated cost of \$14,480.64 (transportation rate pending).

ATTACHMENT AD 3

Motion by Mrs Kurtzman, 2nd by Mrs. Andriac

Yes: Mrs. Kurtzman, Mrs. Andriac, Ms Johnson, Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Masset, Mr. Plotsky, Mrs. Spinapolice
Motion carried

AD 4. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the extended school year contract with Northern Hills Academy for (9469614603) at an estimated cost of \$14,480.64 (transportation rate pending).

ATTACHMENT AD 4

Motion by Mrs. Spinapolice, 2nd by Mrs. Masset

Yes: Mrs. Spinapolice, Mrs. Masset, Mr. Plotsky, Mrs. Andriac, Mrs. Kurtzman, Ms Johnson, Mrs. Cole
Motion carried

AD 5. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the extended school year contract with Northern Hills Academy for (6347937694) at an estimated cost of \$15,237.10 (transportation rate pending).

ATTACHMENT AD 5

Motion by Mr. Plotsky, 2nd by Mrs. Kurtzman

Yes: Mr. Plotsky, Mrs. Kurtzman, Mrs. Spinapolice, Mrs. Masset, Mrs. Andriac, Ms Johnson, Mrs. Cole
Motion carried

AD 6. WHEREAS the Montague Board of Education and District Superintendent seek to support and work with school staff and administrators, students, and parents to ensure a safe and healthy environment for students by encouraging our school community to implement sustainable, energy-smart, eco-friendly, and cost-effective solutions, and

WHEREAS —The Montague Board of Education commits to the formation of at least one Sustainability Leadership Team (also referred to as “Green Team”), based on the guidance of Sustainable Jersey for Schools,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education agrees to participate in Sustainable Jersey for Schools, and it is the board’s intention to pursue certification for schools in the district.

We hereby appoint the Business Administrator to be the district’s liaison to Sustainable Jersey for Schools.

We do hereby recognize Montague School as the agent to carry out our commitment to building a sustainable school district through the implementation of Sustainable Jersey for Schools actions.

We agree to complete district actions and to support the district’s schools in completing their actions.

ATTACHMENT AD 6

Original Motion by Mr. Plotsky, 2nd by Mrs. Cole

Discussion to remove wording appointing Jan MacKenzie by name

Yes: Mrs. Kurtzman, Mrs. Spinapolice, Mrs. Masset, Mrs. Andriac, Ms Johnson, Mrs. Cole

No: Mr. Plotsky

Motion to approve with amendment removing “Jan MacKenzie”

Motion to approve amended version:

Yes: Mrs. Kurtzman, Mrs. Spinapolice, Mrs. Masset, Mrs. Andriac, Mrs. Cole

No: Ms. Johnson, Mr. Plotsky

Motion carried

AD 7. RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education hereby approves the attendance of Montague school board members and district employees at the NJSBA 2016 Workshop, and the costs of attendance including all registration fees, and statutorily authorized travel expenditures, provided that such expenditures are within the annual maximum travel expenditure amount.

Motion by Mrs. Andriac, 2nd by Mrs. Masset

Yes: Mrs. Andriac, Mrs. Masset, Mrs. Spinapolice, Mr. Plotsky, Mrs. Kurtzman, Ms Johnson, Mrs. Cole

Motion carried

Policy

PY 1. RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education hereby approves the first reading of new board policy manual, to be finalized and accepted at the next Board of Education meeting.

ATTACHMENT PY 1

Motion by Mrs Cole., 2nd by Mrs. Andriac

Yes: Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Andriac, Mrs. Masset, Mrs. Spinapolice, Mr. Plotsky, Mrs. Kurtzman, Ms Johnson

Motion carried

Personnel

P 1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve expenses and resolution for Jan MacKenzie to reserve one room to attend the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials (NJASBO) Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey, June 8-10, 2016, at the Borgata Hotel, room rate per night \$100 plus tax; General Services Administration (GSA) meal allowance will be \$64 per day – 75% first and last day. (Note: hotel rate exceeds GSA rate of \$97.)

ATTACHMENT P1

Motion by Mr. Plotsky, 2nd by Mrs. Andriac

Yes: Mr. Plotsky, Mrs. Andriac, Mrs. Spinapolice, Mrs. Masset, Mrs Kurtzman., Ms Johnson, Mrs. Cole

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 April 2016 (FY2016).

ATTACHMENT FI 1

Motion by Mrs. Kurtzman, 2nd by Mrs. Cole

Yes: Mrs. Kurtzman , Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Andriac, Mrs. Masset, Mrs. Spinapolice, Mr. Plotsky, Ms Johnson
Motion carried

FI 2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education accept the Board Secretary's Financial Report for the month of April 2016 (FY2016).

ATTACHMENT FI 2

Motion by Mrs. Spinapolice, 2nd by Mrs. Masset

Yes: Mrs. Spinapolice, Mrs. Masset, Mrs. Andriac, Mr. Plotsky, Mrs. Kurtzman, Ms Johnson, Mrs. Cole
Motion carried

FI 3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the transfers/budget adjustments as listed for May 23, 2016.

ATTACHMENT FI 3

Motion by Mrs. Masset, 2nd by Mrs. Kurtzman

Yes: Mrs. Masset, Mrs. Kurtzman , Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Andriac, Mrs. Spinapolice, Mr. Plotsky, Ms Johnson
Motion carried

FI 4. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the May 23, 2016 (FY 2016) Bill List attached and listed below:

	<u>Check Numbers</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Regular Bill List	22356 – 22430	\$565,705.98
Lunch Program	1630 - 1632	\$ 8,719.01

ATTACHMENT FI 4

Motion by Mr. Plotsky, 2nd by Mrs. Masset

Yes: Mr. Plotsky, Mrs. Spinapolice, Mrs. Andriac (Abstain Check # 22425), Mrs Kurtzman., Ms Johnson, Mrs. Cole

Abstain: Mrs. Masset

Motion carried

FI 5. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education certifies that pursuant to NJAC 6A: 23-16.10 (c), as of May 23, 2016 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. Plotsky, 2nd by Mrs. Kurtzman

Yes: Mr. Plotsky, Mrs. Kurtzman , Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Andriac, Mrs. Spinapolice, Ms Johnson

Abstain: Mrs. Masset

Motion carried

Buildings and Grounds

BG 1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education authorize the business administrator to offer surplus school property (Ford Explorer VIN FMHK8B82CGA21762) by

way of sale to Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative, for consideration of \$19,500, which includes a \$500 allowance for re-lettering.

Motion by Mrs. Andriac, 2nd by Mrs. Masset

Yes: Mrs. Andriac, Mrs. Masset, Mrs. Spinapolice, Mr. Plotsky, Mrs. Kurtzman, Ms Johnson, Mrs. Cole
Motion carried

New Business

Job Postings to replace two retiring paraprofessionals
Preschool tuition for non-Montague residents

Executive Session

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education recess and proceed to Executive Session to discuss legal matters (High Point/ Port Jervis, ethics and personnel).
Action may or may not be taken.

Motion to open Executive Session at 8:38 p.m.

Motion by Mrs. Andriac, 2nd by Mrs. Spinapolice

All in Favor

Motion Carried

Motion to close Executive Session at 9:23 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Plotsky, 2nd by Mrs. Kurtzman

All in Favor

Motion Carried

Motion to resume Regular Meeting Agenda at 9:23 p.m.

Motion by Mrs. Kurtzman, 2nd Mrs. Cole

All in Favor

Motion Carried

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Plotsky, 2nd by Mrs. Spinapolice at 9:24 p.m.

All in Favor

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan MacKenzie,
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary