

**Montague Board of Education Meeting  
Budget Hearing  
May 9, 2016**

Call to Order at 6:00 PM

Roll Call

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Tacia Johnson	X	
Diane Cole	X	
Gayle Andriac	X	
Sally Kurtzman		X
Emma Masset	X	
Glen Plotsky	ARRIVED 6:15	
Linda Spinapolicc		X

Others Present:

Janice L. Hodge, Chief School Administrator/Principal  
Jan MacKenzie, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Gary Kraemer, Esq., Interim Board Attorney ARRIVED 6:20

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

HIB Report- Mr. Gregory

HIB incident was determined, referral made, School Safety Team met, Conference with social worker, parent meeting, as of 5/9/2016, no further action deemed warranted.

The 2016-2017 Annual Budget Presentation to the Public

*Mrs. Janice L. Hodge, Chief School Administrator/Principal*  
*Mrs. Jan Mackenzie, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary*

Mrs. Masset asked why the proposed preschool required a special education teacher, a general education teacher and an aide. Mrs. Hodge clarified that she was responsible to match the instructional needs with staff.

Mrs. Johnson stated that student numbers were lower this year and last year and inquired about teachers' lunch duty assignments. Mrs. Hodge stated that assignments are given by administrators, with schedules provided to the board, and that every staff member is fully engaged from 8:30 AM to 3 PM.

Also discussed and recommended as Workshop topics were bus routes, transportation in general, roof repairs, residency verification, a sound system for BOE meetings, legal fees, and property taxes.

Mrs. Masset asked for clarification of a number of items on the bills list.

Mrs. Johnson stated that information requested for Budget years 2014, 2015, and 2016 had only been received on Friday.

### Approval of Minutes

March 14, 2016 Regular Meeting

March 14, 2016 Executive Meeting #1

March 14, 2016 Executive Meeting #2

April 14, 2016 Workshop Meeting

Motion by Mrs. Andriac, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Masset

All in Favor

Motion Carried

### Superintendent Report

#### Staff News

- Thank you to the PTA for its Teacher Appreciation Breakfast and Lunch this past Friday
- We have been officially notified that Mrs. Jeskey has been selected to be the Sussex County Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Jeskey will serve as the educational ambassador for the county and is in consideration for New Jersey Teacher of the Year.
- Mrs. Casseletto has been selected as the Sussex County Paraprofessional of the Year
- Mr. Ferriere will serve on the High Point Articulation Committee for Math, developing quarterly assessments for 8<sup>th</sup> graders for an accurate 9<sup>th</sup> grade math placement
- Ms. Nelson was selected to attend the 2016 Michelson Exxon-Mobil Teachers' Academy, to be held at Liberty Science Center in July
- 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Open House on Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, from 6-8 PM. (All BOE members are invited to attend)
- This is Special Education Week; thank you to all of our special education teachers and CST for their continued commitment to our students
- Final week of PARCC testing

#### Student News

- SMUA Earth Day – Mrs. Goyette's class presented their future city project
- Ms. Nelson's 7<sup>th</sup> grade class gave our outdoor classroom a spring clean-up
- Student Council coin drive to help kids in need buy school supplies
- Student Council participated in Montague's Spring Fling April 30
- Aaron Dunn – Student of the Year for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row
- High Point Freshmen Welcome Picnic to be held May 31<sup>st</sup>. A letter was sent from Montague to all 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

#### Other

- The Comprehensive Equity Plan was approved by the County DOE
- Internet Safety for Parents seminar will be presented by Detective Thomas Laird of the Sussex County Prosecutors Office and our school resource officer, Trooper James Bambara, here on May 18<sup>th</sup> as part of our PTA meeting

Correspondence

Donation from Montague Township of soccer nets

Liaison Updates

Mrs. Cole and Mrs. Johnson attended the last High Point board meeting, where the settlement was accepted. The board stated that it would consider the request regarding siblings.

Mr. Kraemer advised that the terms of the settlement included in the consent order have been signed by Judge Marose and will go to the Commissioner of Education, who has 45 days to approve it. We expect to have approval. Superior Court and federal court issues are still pending.

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 7:41 p.m.

Motion by Mrs. Andriac, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Masset  
All in Favor  
Motion Carried

Lori Jeskey - supports a sports program at Montague

Montague Teachers Association has donated money to several teams, as well as 30 choir robes and stolls for the choir and handbell choir.

Krista Thomas – Thank you to Jan MacKenzie for a factual presentation of the proposed budget

The board should do more research before the meeting

Supports smaller class sizes, sees value in that

Mrs. Masset says the classes are too small

Supports the preschool, children benefit from early intervention

How do you not justify a strong foundation?

The school staff has been reduced by the administration

The prolonged legal battle takes money away from children

The BOE should not be using names of teachers and parents of special needs children and dollar amounts of payments in a public meeting

Christine Bisl – Glad that Montague reached an agreement

Supports preschool for next year

As a former teacher, knows that class size is important, as proven by this school

Please don't raise class sizes, especially for lower grades

Supports the staff in this building – they know what they are doing

We have the County Teacher of the Year

We need to focus on the needs of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades

80 children signed up for Art Club

We have waited a whole year for sports

Encourage the board to visit Lafayette and Frankford Schools for ideas; they are similar to Montague and both send their students to High Point

Tom Bolen – What are the real legal costs this year and what have we budgeted for in 2016-17?

Why can't we have lacrosse? Players would cover the cost of everything except the coach

Class sizes should stay the same

Will we be testing for lead in the water?

Jennifer Olenick – Supports presentation of Internet Safety for Parents

Is Mr. Ferrier our math chairperson?

The preschool will save money in the long run with reduced need for special education services

Curious to know if the preschool teacher was moved by her choice

Teachers shouldn't be in the cafeteria, they should be given an extra planning period

The nurse shouldn't be registering pre-k and kindergarten students

Facebook doesn't always convey truth

Why was BOE meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup> canceled?

When will be hearing from the Commissioner?

Krista Thomas – BOE should not be giving out names in a public meeting: shows a lack of professionalism

The BOE should not be haphazard in running meetings  
Doesn't want the BOE chipping away at teachers

Motion to close public comment at 7:52 p.m.

Motion by Mrs. Andriac, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Colet  
All in Favor  
Motion Carried

## Unfinished Business

### Administration

AD 1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the 2015-2016 Special Education Tuition Contract effective March 21, 2016 for a total of 50 billable days with Lakeland-Andover School for (2985997662) at a cost of \$10,000. Transportation cost to be \$8,000.

ATTACHMENT AD 1

Motion by Mr. Plotsky, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Andriac  
Vote 5-0  
Motion Carried

AD 2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the 2016-2017 Special Education Summer Program Tuition Contract effective March 13, 2016 for a total of 5 weeks with the Developmental Center for Children & Families (DCCF) for (7671899359) at a cost of \$7,600.

ATTACHMENT AD 2

Motion by Mrs. Masset, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Andriac  
Vote 5-0  
Motion Carried

AD 3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the Agreement to Participate in Joint Transportation with the Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative for special education, private, vocational-technical, or their school students for the 2016-2017 school year.

ATTACHMENT AD 3

Motion by Mrs. Andriac, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Cole  
Vote 5-0  
Motion Carried

AD 4. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the Agreement to Participate in Joint Transportation with the Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative for extra-curricular field trips for the 2016-2017 school year.

ATTACHMENT AD 4

Motion by Mr. Plotsky, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Masset  
Vote 5-0  
Motion Carried

AD 5. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education waive/excuse Lakeland-Andover School from applying for and receiving funding from the New Jersey Child Nutrition Program, but allow LAS to continue to provide breakfast and lunch to all students from the Montague district without charge.

ATTACHMENT AD 5

Motion by Mrs. Andriac, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Masset  
Vote 5-0

Motion Carried

AD 6. BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education in the Township of Montague, that the following notice of regularly-scheduled Workshop meetings be adopted beginning at 6 PM and held in the Montague Elementary School Cafeteria:

June 7

July 5

August 2

September 6

October 4

November 1

December 6

Subject to change.

Motion by Mr. Plotsky, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Andriac  
Vote 5-0  
Motion Carried

Personnel:

P 1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education accept with regret the retirement of Marie Casaletto effective June 30, 2016.

ATTACHMENT P-1

Motion by Mrs Masset, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Andriac  
Vote 5-0  
Motion Carried

P 2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education accept with regret the retirement of Lynn Decker effective June 30, 2016.

ATTACHMENT P-2

Motion by Mr. Plotsky, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Masset  
Vote 5-0  
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 March 2016 (FY2016).

ATTACHMENT FI 1

Motion by Mrs. Andriac, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Masset  
Vote 5-0  
Motion Carried

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

ATTACHMENT FI 2

Motion by Mrs. Cole, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Masset  
Vote 5-0  
Motion Carried

FI 3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the transfers/budget adjustments as listed for April 25, 2016.

Motion by Mrs. Andriac, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Cole  
Vote 5-0  
Motion Carried

FI 4. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the April 25, 2016 (FY 2016) Bill List attached and listed below:

	<u>Check Numbers</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
Regular Bill List	22271 – 22353	\$750,772.16	
Lunch Program	1627 - 1629	8,158.77	
Student Council	315	100.67	ATTACHMENT FI 4

Motion by Mr. Plotsky, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Cole  
Vote 5-0  
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 March 31, 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 Mrs. Masset, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Cole  
Vote 5-0  
Motion Carried

FI 6. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education hereby adopt the following budget for the 2016-2017 school year:

	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>SPECIAL REVENUES</u>	<u>DEBT SERVICE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2016-2017 Total Expenditures	\$8,792,542	\$201,000	\$ 2,008	\$8,997,558
Less: Anticipated Revenues	<u>\$3,011,809</u>	<u>\$201,000</u>	<u>\$2,008</u>	<u>\$3,214,817</u>
Taxes to be Raised	\$5,780,733	0	\$2,008	\$5,782,741

Motion by Mrs. Masset, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Plotsky  
Yes: Mrs. Masset, Mr. Plotsky  
No: Mrs. Cole  
Abstain: Mrs. Andriac, Ms. Johnson  
Motion Failed

FI 7. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the submission grant application for the 2017 Safety Grant Program through the New Jersey Schools Insurance Group ERIC WEST Sub fund for the purpose described in the application, in the amount of \$1,300 for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

Motion by Mrs. Cole, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Andriac  
Vote 5-0  
Motion Carried

### New Business

BG 1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education hereby accept with appreciation the donation of soccer nets by the Montague Township Committee.

Motion by Mr. Plotsky, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Andriac  
Vote 5-0  
Motion Carried

Discuss Board self-evaluation

### Executive Session

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education recess and proceed to Executive Session to review Personnel and Legal matters (litigation – Port Jervis, High Point, & NJDOE and new ethics complaint, legal advice from BOE attorney regarding Board policies). Action may or may not be taken.

Motion to open Executive Session at 8:39 p.m.  
Motion by Mrs. Masset, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Andriac  
Vote 5-0  
Motion Carried

Motion to close Executive Session at 10:49 p.m.  
Motion by Mrs. Masset, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Andriac  
Vote 5-0  
Motion Carried

Motion to resume Regular Meeting Agenda at 10:50 p.m.  
Motion by Mr. Plotsky, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Masset  
Vote 5-0  
Motion Carried

Mr. Kraemer reported on the issue of policies and procedures. He stated that investigation shows that the district is in compliance with concussion, eye injury, and cardiac arrest policies.

Mr. Gregory, the Assistant Principal, responded to the board's Rice notice by submitting a letter requesting that all discussion relating to his position be discussed in public session.

Ms. Johnson – The board has requested information so that they can make informed decisions

Mr. Gregory did not provide information for the sports program, which caused delay. This put the board in a bad light.

Information given to the state by Mr. Gregory included old policies that shouldn't have been included

Mr. Gregory has intimidated the board into agreeing to, and approving, things

Mr. Gregory seems to be in opposition to the board

We still don't have what we asked for



We can't make decisions without information

Mrs. Masset – A mother approached her about the sports program  
Believes that there wasn't enough done by Mr. Gregory  
Mr. Gregory's talents are not taken advantage of  
Believes that we don't need a full-time Assistant Principal who doesn't teach; it is wasted money  
There's not enough work  
He is supervising the cafeteria for large amounts of money  
His time should be better utilized  
We are paying way too much money for what we receive

Diane Cole – Because of all of the costs, shared services should be looked into

Ms. Johnson – Mr. Gregory has shown outward defiance. He said, "If I give this to you, you're not even going to approve it," when talking about the sports program  
Mr. Gregory suggested volleyball for Montague. Our sports should mirror what High Point has.  
At High Point, volleyball is only intramural/recreational, not a varsity sport.  
Board said that he should try to set kids up prepared for High School program

Mrs. Masset – We have to look at his position and give him more obligations  
In two weeks his contract is up; it should be replaced or modified  
This school system does not justify his position for the amount that we pay  
Negotiations should start now; Mrs. Hodge should be involved to give testimony  
We are talking about a very high salary  
A teacher that we have just might be able to do the duty of the Vice Principal or could work towards it.

Mrs. Johnson – We have choices, to not renew, to renew with changes and modifications

Mr. Kraemer – That's part of negotiations, you should start now

Mrs. Andriac – We will be looking for a Spanish teacher?

Mrs. Masset – We are talking about a very high salary and someone who doesn't have enough obligations

Mrs. Johnson – We will have a Personnel Committee meeting

Mr. Plotsky – We should have a Personnel Committee meeting

Ms. Johnson – Direct Jan MacKenzie to email to Gary Kraemer a copy of Chris's contract

### Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Plotsky, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Masset

Vote 5-0

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Janet D. MacKenzie  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary