

**Montague Board of Education Meeting
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 17
6:00 pm**

Mr. Plotsky called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Roll Call

	Present	Absent
Jennifer Caramucci	X	
Diane Cole		X
Sally Kurtzman		X
Glen Plotsky, President	X	
Linda Spinapolicc, Vice President	X	
Charles Teufert	X	
Billy Underwood	X	

Mr. Teufert arrived at 6:10 PM.

Others Present:

Timothy Capone - Chief School Administrator
Maria Costa – Board Secretary

Flag Salute

Mr. Plotsky led those present in a salute to our flag.

Mr. Plotsky read the following mission statement and notice of this meeting:

The mission of the Montague School District is to provide the best educational experience and opportunities resources allow, in order to realize the potential of every child.

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 Times Herald Record.

Executive Session

Motion to open Executive Session at 6:03 PM.

Mrs. Caramucci moved, seconded by Mr. Underwood, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education recess and proceed to executive session to discuss personnel matters and legal issues. Action may or may not be taken.

Voice vote: All were in favor.

Mrs. Caramucci moved, seconded by Mrs. Teufert, that the Board close Executive Session at 7:01 PM.

Voice vote: All were in favor.

Mrs. Spinapolice moved, seconded by Mrs. Caramucci, that the Board re-open the Regular Meeting at 7:01 PM.

Voice vote: All were in favor.

Mr. Teufert moved, seconded by Mrs. Caramucci for a recess at 7:02 PM.

Voice vote: All were in favor.

Mr. Teufert moved, seconded by Jennifer Caramucci to resume the meeting at 7:09 PM.

Voice vote: All were in favor.

CSA Report

Audit Presentation (Kaitlin- Genesis)

- District built up capital reserve.
- Should look to do the same for future years.
- Huge improvement going forward. Finance team commended for huge improvement.
- Three recommendations this year.
 - Certain PO's did not have authorizing signatures.
 - State regulates travel expenses, accounted for separately. Some were charged elsewhere.
 - All required paperwork submitted to the county- Transportation contracts to be sent to the County Superintendent.
- No questions from the board regarding the Audit Presentation.

Mr. Capone discussed the following topics:

- Prior to George Hagl, we had 23 audit recommendations from the prior BA.
- This year we had 3 recommendations and can be credited back to when George took over in October and significant improvement from the current business office.
- There were several improvements done: Boilers, facilities improvement.
- Expand our offerings, put money in capital reserve.
- Last month, there were several celebrations, 3rd Halloween Parade, First Annual Turkey Trot, Fall Showcase on October 29th- great turnout where parents visited with teachers that highlighted the class' activities.

- Other Offerings: Soccer Clinic with games held on Saturday, 55 Participants spearheaded by Mr. Underwood, Mrs. Van Gordon, and Mr. Capone.
 - Chess Club, 25 regular Participants spearheaded by Mr. Capone and Mrs. Edsall.
 - Cross country- new records, listing down to third graders with yearly mark to compete.
- Trimester ended- report cards going home this Friday, December 20, 2019.
- Mr. Capone thanked Linda Spinapolice, Sally Kurtzman, and Diane Cole for their service.
- Mr. Capone addressed the NJ Herald articles by Mr. Eric Obernauer.
 - Articles written about Montague Township about mold which in fact was mildew.
 - Articles about physicals written at Montague Township without receiving requested OPRA information.
 - Mr. Eric Obernauer is trying to create issues in the communities.
 - This will all be reported in detail in the next newsletter.
 - If half the articles were accurate, that would be an exaggeration.

SBA Report

- None

Correspondence- Mr. Plotsky got a credit card offering. He gave to Board Secretary for shredding.

Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the minutes September 17, October 1, October 15.

Moved by: Mr. Teufert

Seconded by: Mrs. Caramucci

Roll Call	Caramucci	Cole	Kurtzman	Plotsky	Spinapolice	Teufert	Underwood	Total
YES	x			x	x	x	x	5
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT	X		X					2

- Mr. Plotsky- one edit required on the October 1 Minutes- Page 2 of 3 where it indicates Dana Berry- Dural Drive stating Board of Education members required to join PTA. This should be edited to Board of Education members request to join PTA. Otherwise minutes reviewed and consistent

Public Session

Public comment is invited on all matters pertaining to the school district. All participants shall be permitted three (3) minutes to speak and shall state their name, place of residence, and group affiliation, if appropriate.

Board meetings are a meeting of the Board conducted in public, NOT a meeting of the public conducted in the presence of the Board.

The Board uses the public comment period as an opportunity to listen to citizen concerns, but please be aware that not all issues brought to a board meeting will be resolved this evening; rather, the Board will, in appropriate cases, delegate the authority to investigate the matter to the Superintendent or his designee.

Please let the record reflect that the BOE does not endorse your comments nor will the BOE be held liable for comments you make about a staff member, or other person, which the staff member, or other person, may consider defamatory and/or libelous, as that individual retains all rights to pursue any legal remedies against you.

Mrs. Caramucci moved, seconded by Mr. Teufert to open public comment at 7:27 PM.
Voice vote: All were in favor

John Mannion, of Chubby Lane, requested to know the cost of handing out newsletters that he believes 5% get read and thrown out in the post office. Indicated that Mr. Plotsky and Mr. Capone bragged in Atlantic City that they do not allow the public to hijack the board meetings. Noted that a member of the board is not a legal member of this community.

Mr. Capone stated that the comment made in the presentation at Atlantic City was not about the public hijacking the community. It was around a board member trying to hijack the meeting and following meeting protocol.

Arthur Hen, Thanked Diane Cole, Sally Kurtzman, and Linda Spinapolice for all the work they did during their time on the board.

Dorris Mannion, of Chubby Lane, asked What is Robert's Rules?

Mr. Capone stated that Robert's Rules is what governs the rule of behavior at the board meeting.

Stephanie Guida, of Autumn Drive, On behalf of herself and other parents, they have questions with decisions made at the last board meeting. She will like to know more about these choice options and what our children choices will be staying in NJ and not go to Port Jervis. She wants her child to go to High Point and wants to know for sure that in two years where a child can attend high school

Mr. Capone stated that multiple statures govern this. If you want to send a child to a school, you can get an exemption, that part of the Stature, under the circumstance to exercise an exemption to have a NJ High School Diploma, the Board and Administration will work with that to make that an option, state will make an exemption. If the plan goes forward the way it is intended that is how it will work out. Students can to High Point.

Mr. Plotsky stated that we cannot answer the question where a child can attend high school in the next two years. It is a process.

Hearing no further public comments, Mrs. Caramucci moved, seconded by Mr. Teufert to close public comment at 7:47 PM.

Voice vote: All were in favor.

Administrative Items

Mr. Plotsky moved to block vote A1 through A7. All were in favor.

Mr. Plotsky stated he asked Mr. Capone questions about A-2, re: the calendar- number of days off in the beginning of November, 2020 and 2021. The reason for the days off is teacher’s conference.

- Moved by Mrs. Caramucci.
- Seconded by Mr. Teufert.
- All in Favor.
- Mrs. Cole Absent.
- Mrs. Kurtzman Absent.

Personnel Items

Mr. Plotsky request to block vote P-1 through P-10. All were in favor.

- Moved by Mr. Teufert..
- Seconded by Mrs. Caramucci.
- All in Favor.

Financial Items

Mr. Plotsky requested the Board Block Vote Motions F-1 through F-18. All were in favor.

F-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve October 16, 2019 thru December 17, 2019 - Bill List attached and listed below:

	Check Numbers	Amount
Regular Bill List	#A:N1023-N1214 A:25226-A:25331	\$1,395,714.71
Lunch Program	F: N1714-1716	\$16,116.95

Moved by: Mr. Teufert

Seconded by: Mrs. Caramucci

Roll Call	Caramucci	Cole	Kurtzman	Plotsky	Spinapolice	Teufert	Underwood	Total
YES	X				X	X	X	4
NO								
ABSTAIN				X				1
ABSENT		X	X					2

Block Vote F-2 through F18.

- Moved by Mr. Teufert.
- Seconded by Mr. Mrs. Caramucci.
- All in Favor.
- Mrs. Cole Absent.
- Mrs. Kurtzman Absent.

XIV Unfinished Business – No Unfinished Business.

XV New Business - Mrs. Spinapolice stated to be aware that Governor Murphy will eliminate CAP on property taxes, so districts can increase taxes due to state aid.

There is no other new business.

Mr. Plotsky thanked Mrs. Spinapolice, Mrs. Cole, and Mrs. Kurtzman for their time on the board.

- Thanked Linda for being Vice President and filling in for Mr. Plotsky.

Adjournment

- Moved by Jennifer Caramucci.
- Seconded by Billy Underwood.
- All in Favor.
- Mrs. Cole Absent.
- Mrs. Kurtzman Absent.

Time of Adjournment: 8:02PM