

**Montague Board of Education Meeting
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 4, 2019**

Mr. Plotsky called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

	Present	Absent
Gayle Andriac	X	
Jennifer Caramucci	X	
Diane Cole		X
Sally Kurtzman	X	
Glen Plotsky, President	X	
Linda Spinapolice, Vice President	X	
Charles Teufert	X	

Others Present:

Timothy Capone - Chief School Administrator
George Hagl – Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary

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.

Mrs. Andriac moved, seconded by Mr. Teufert, 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

The closed executive session commenced at 6:04 PM.

Mr. Teufert moved, seconded by Mrs. Spinapoliche that the Board close Executive Session at 7:06 PM.

Voice vote: All were in favor

Mrs. Andriac moved, seconded by Mrs. Caramucci that the Board reopen the Regular Meeting at 7:06 PM.

Voice Vote: All were in favor

CSA Report

Mr. Capone discussed the following items:

- Last evening meeting on the topic of programming
- Expanding opportunities for High School students at Kittatinny, Port Jervis and BOCES
- The proposed Port Jervis cost per pupil of \$10,000 per pupil versus High Point cost per pupil of \$17,000.
- Students will be transported utilizing in-district school buses for the upcoming field trips.
- The Elementary Concert will be held on June 13th.
- Field Day will be held on June 14th.
- Graduation will be held on June 24th.
- The inaccurate public statement made during the last Board meeting.

SBA Report

Mr. Hagl informed those present regarding the following grant submissions:

- The Application for FY 2018-2019 Special Education Extraordinary Aid was submitted to the NJ Department of Education on May 20, 2019.
- A Safety Grant application in the amount of \$2,500 was submitted to New Jersey Schools Insurance Group on May 29, 2019.

Correspondence

Mr. Plotsky stated he was in receipt of an invitation from the Kindergarten class.

Mr. Plotsky also stated he was in receipt of a letter from Hillary Goldman thanking Mr. Capone and him for their attendance at the Impact Aid convention.

Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the minutes of April 16, April 30, and May 7, 2019.

Moved by: Mr. Teufert

Seconded by: Mrs. Andriac

Roll Call	Andriac	Caramucci	Cole	Kurtzman	Plotsky	Spinapolice	Teufert	Total
YES	X	X		X	X	X	X	6
NO								0
ABSTAIN								0
ABSENT			X					1

Mrs. Spinapolice thanked Mr. Hagl for providing data on the Senior Tax Freeze Act at the May 7th Public Budget Hearing.

Public Session

Mr. Plotsky read the following statement:

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. Andriac moved, seconded by Mr. Teufert that the Board open public comment at 7:20 PM.

Voice vote: All were in favor

Stephanie Guida thanked the Board members for their service. Additionally, she discussed her 2nd grade child decreased Art instructional time. She discussed her request for information regarding RTI, however never received a response. Mrs. Guida spoke regarding additional High School options. She stated Montague will never receive a seat on the receiving district Boards by splitting the town.

Deborah Houghtaling stated she sent many emails regarding dangerous bus routes and has contacted the State Police. She questioned why the town is so divided on the Port Jervis issue. She also questioned the need for custody paper.

Stephanie Guida stated she never said anything negative about RTI teachers. She expressed her feeling that RTI was not being implemented correctly and discussed the proper three-tiered approach. Mrs. Guida also discussed Montague's missed Pre-K funding application. She continued by stating every other district in Sussex County that applied for Pre-K funding received the grant.

Danielle Christmann read a letter from daughter regarding Ms. Dougherty.

Stephanie Guida stated she interviewed 15 parents and 2 staff members from Green Township. She questioned the Board if they read Mr. Nittolo's Settlement Agreement.

Nancy Padalino requested a reissuance of her check that will be written-off in a subsequent motion this evening. Although she is no longer a resident of Montague, she still supports the great teachers in Montague.

Stephanie Guida read a letter from her 5th grade daughter stating Ms. Harrington is the best teacher. She cited Ms. Harrington's ability to keep her students engaged. Mrs. Guida questioned why the wall of hand prints was painted over and why the replacement quotes do not contain any quotes from a woman?

The public outcries became disorderly and Mr. Plotsky requested the Board recess.

Mrs. Kurtzman moved, seconded by Mrs. Caramucci that the Board recess at 7:45 PM.

Voice vote: All were in favor

The Board members exited the meeting

Mrs. Andriac moved, seconded by Mrs. Caramucci that the Board reconvene its meeting at 7:53 PM.

Voice vote: All were in favor

Mr. Plotsky acknowledged receipt of a letter from Morgan Christmann.

Stephanie Guida commented on High Point Academic data. She stated High Point overall GPA is 3.8, and Montague student GPA is 3.5. She suggested a referendum to ascertain whether Montague is interested in returning to Port Jervis. She continued by spreading out our High School Students, we (Montague) does not have a home.

Krista Mikulski stated there are issues that have not been addressed. She stated her desire to see administration to heal what has happened here this evening.

Stephanie Guida suggested:

- Slating Executive Session for a specific time at each Board meeting.
- Avoid scheduling conflicts with sending / receiving district(s)

Additionally, she felt the slide presentation on student performance was vague. Mrs. Guida also requested a profit (cost) analysis for purchasing our school buses.

A member of the public questioned student transport safety issues to the NY BOCES along the Route 84 corridor.

Stephanie Guida stated kids are missing out on a lot. They have no solid future.

Hearing no further public discussion, Mrs. Caramucci moved, seconded by Mrs. Andriac that the Board close public discussion at 8:06 PM.

Voice vote: All were in favor

Action Items

A-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the following field trip:

Grade	Date	Location	Event
Pre-K	Friday, June 14, 2019	Hampton Pit	Picnic & Field Day

Moved by: Mr. Teufert

Seconded by: Mrs. Andriac

Roll Call	Andriac	Caramucci	Cole	Kurtzman	Plotsky	Spinapolicc	Teufert	Total
YES	X	X		X	X	X	X	
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT			X					

Mr. Plotsky requested that the Board block vote the following motions.

Mr. Teufert moved, seconded by Mrs. Andriac that the Board block vote motions F-1 thru F-17.

Mr. Hagl suggested amending motion F-11 to include lodging and meals pending auditor's approval.

Mr. Teufert moved, seconded by Mrs. Andriac to amend motion F-11 to include lodging and meals pending auditor's approval and to block vote motions F-1 thru F-17.

F-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the May 8, 2019 thru June 4, 2019 - Bill List attached and listed below:

	Check Numbers	Amount
Regular Bill List	A:24871-A:24931	\$ 950,884.40
	A:N0515-A:N0531	
Lunch Program	N1704-N1706	\$ 294.75

F-2 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the attached list of line item transfers effective April 2019.

F-3 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the Board Secretary's Report (A-148) for the month of April 2019.

F-4 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the Treasurer of School Monies Report (A-149) for the month of April 2019.

F-5 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve an amendment to the ESSA Title IA 2017-2018 fiscal year carry over grant funds allocations as follows:

ACCOUNT NUMBER	AMOUNT
20-234-100-101-000-000	\$107,753.00
20-234-200-200-000-000	\$ 33,403.00
TOTAL	\$141,156.00

F-6 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the ESEA Title IV FY 2017-2018 carryover allocation as follows:

ACCOUNT NUMBER	AMOUNT
20-281-400-732-000-000	\$10,000.00
TOTAL	\$10,000.00

F-7 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the write-off of the following outstanding checks issued from the General Fund:

PAYEE	CHECK NUMBER	AMOUNT	REASON
Bollinger, Inc.	23368	\$1,434.00	Duplicate Check
Michele Hordyszynski	23409	\$40.30	Mileage Reimbursement Checks Not Cashed
Pham Thank	23800	\$500.00	Aide-In-Lieu Not Cashed
Bureau of Educational at Research	23943	\$259.00	Duplicate Check
Suburban Morris Water	24130	\$770.22	Duplicate Check

F-8 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the write-off of the following (2015) deposit in transit from the New Jersey Cash Management Account in the amount of \$0.77.

F-9 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the write-off of the following outstanding checks issued from the Lunch Account:

PAYEE	CHECK NUMBER	AMOUNT	REASON
Nancy Padalino	1669	\$25.00	Not Cash

F-10 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the write-off of the following 2016/2017 & 2017/2018 fiscal year carryforward Accounts Payable:

PURCHASE ORDER	VENDOR	AMOUNT	REASON
P201800204	S.C. Voc Tech	\$5,678.00	Adjusted Billing
P201800707	Shell	\$64.00	Adjusted Billing
P201700850	State of N.J.	\$7,000.00	Cancel Invalid P.O.
P201800711	Abcode	\$4,320.00	Items Not Required
P201800669	Abcode	\$450.00	Items Not Required

F-11 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the attendance of the following professional development workshop:

Workshop	Attendee	Date	Location	Cost
CPM Mathematics	Genene Meli	June 18, 2019	Warminster, PA	Free Registration Plus: Mileage / Tolls / Parking in accordance with OMB guidelines and lodging and meals pending auditor's approval.

F-12 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education rescind its motion of April 16, 2019 as follows:

*“F-12 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approves the purchase of the following items from Keyboard Consultants, Inc. through a bid (**HCESC-COT-1906**) awarded by the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission:*

<i>Qty.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Unit Price</i>	<i>Total</i>
4	Promethean AP6-8A-4K (4)	\$6,152.00	\$24,608.00
4	Install and setup	\$ 575.00	\$ 2,300.00
4	1 APL5YROSS 5 year on site support (4)	\$ 296.00	\$ 1,184.00
	<i>TOTAL</i>		\$28,092.00

Fund Source: Title I Carry Over”

F-13 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education appoint Nisivoccia LLP, as the auditors for the Board whose term of office shall be July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

WHEREAS, there exists a need for retention of an independent Auditor for the 2018/2019 fiscal year audit; and

WHEREAS, the Public Schools Contract Law allows for a Resolution authorizing the award of contracts for “Professional Services” without competitive bids; and

WHEREAS, Nisivoccia, LLP, submitted a proposal dated December 1, 2018;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Township of Montague as follows:

The School Business Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to execute an agreement with Nisivoccia to serve as Auditor to the Montague Board of Education at a cost as follows:

Audit of the general-purpose financial statements of the Montague Board of Education for the year ended June 30, 2019, including a compliance audit in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments as amended. Assist in the preparation, compiling, copying and binding the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and Audit of the Application for State School Aid (ASSA) as required by the Department of Education, including assistance with GASB 34 Compliance and assistance with GASB 44 Compliance. The cost of these services shall be \$23,025. Additional services are available at the standard hourly rate at the respective degree of responsibly.

Notice of Contract Award

The Board of Education of the Township of Montague in the County of Sussex, New Jersey (the "Board") has awarded a Contract for professional services pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5. The Board retained the auditing firm of Nisivoccia LLP to provide specialized services. The amount charged for these services will be determined in accordance with the proposal for the 2018/2019 Auditing Services dated December 1, 2018, on file with the Board Secretary. This Contract will be in effect until either party gives written notice to the other of termination in accordance with the Agreement or until.

This Contract and the Resolution authorizing it are available for public inspection in the offices of the Board Secretary.

F-14 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the attached list of out-of-district regular & special education placements.

F-15 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve a settlement with the MEA related to employee health benefits in the amount of \$2,061.93.

F-16 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the purchase of the following items under **STATE CONTRACT NO.: WN23AGW.**

Quantity	Description	Unit Price	Total
3	Dell Compact USB-C Charging Cart	\$1,543.18	\$4,629.54
45	Dell Chrome 5190 – Touch Screen	\$250.01	\$11,250.45
45	Google Chrome OS Management Console License, Education	\$25.27	\$1,137.15
TOTAL			\$17,017.14

Note: ESEA- Title I shall fund this purchase in the amount of \$16,639.18

F-17 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the submission of a Safety Grant to the New Jersey Insurance Group requesting \$2,500.00.

Moved by: Mr. Teufert

Seconded by: Mrs. Andriac

Roll Call	Andriac	Caramucci	Cole	Kurtzman	Plotsky	Spinapolice	Teufert	Total
YES	X	X		X	X	X	X	6
NO								0
ABSTAIN								0
ABSENT			X					1

Mr. Plotsky requested the Board block vote motions P-1 thru P-10

Mrs. Andriac moved, seconded by Mr. Teufert that the Board block vote motions P-1 thru P-10.

P-1 WHEREAS, the Montague Township Board of Education (“Board”) seeks to provide all students with educational instructors capable of providing students with the best educational experience, consistent with New Jersey State Law, and Board Policy;

WHEREAS, the Board received certain information regarding actions by employee # 4750030 which creates concern for his/her ability to instruct students consistent with the Board policies, regulations, and known expectations;

WHEREAS, employee # 4750030’s alleged actions and statements are deemed by the Superintendent to be a potential deviation from normal physical and mental health;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and consistent with N.J.S.A. 18A:16-2, hereby requires employee # 4750030, to undergo an appropriate examination and evaluation.

P-2 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve Rachel Van Gorden as a substitute teacher for the remainder of the 2018/2019 school year effective June 5, 2019.

P-3 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve Rachel Van Gorden as a substitute teacher for the 2019/2020 school year effective July 1, 2019.

P-4 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve John Nittolo as Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment effective June 1, 2019 for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year and the 2019-2020 school year.

P-5 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education rescind motions P-1 and P-2 from the 5-7-19 agenda effective May 31, 2019.

P-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education accept the resignation of Carol LaStarza as Interim Supervisor of Special Education, effective May 31, 2019.

P-2 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the hiring of Carol LaStarza as a substitute administrator at a per diem rate of \$400 for the remainder of the 2018/2019 school year and the 2019/2020 school year.

P-6 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve Carol LaStarza as the Interim Supervisor of Special Education for the 2019/2020 school year.

P-7 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education rescind motions P-8 from the 5-7-19 agenda effective June 4, 2019.

P-8 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the creation of a Special Education/Art Teacher position for the 2019/2020 school year.

P-8 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the creation of an Art Teacher/K-6 Teacher position for the 2019/2020 school year effective June 4, 2019.

P-9 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve Arielle Stampone as a student teacher during the 2019/2020 school year.

P-10 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve Ivette Manning as a substitute teacher during the 2019/2020 school year effective July 1, 2019.

Moved by: Mr. Andriac

Seconded by: Mrs. Teufert

Roll Call	Andriac	Caramucci	Cole	Kurtzman	Plotsky	Spinapolice	Teufert	Total
YES	X	X		X	X	X	X	6
NO								0
ABSTAIN								0
ABSENT			X			Abstained from P-1 Only		1

Unfinished Business

Mrs. Andriac questioned progress toward installing air conditioning in our school. Mr. Capone responded this is a project planned for the 2020/2021 fiscal year.

New Business

None

Adjournment

Mrs. Caramucci moved, seconded by Mrs. Andriac, that the Board adjourns its meeting at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

George Hagl
Interim Business Administrator / Board Secretary