

**Montague Board of Education Meeting  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
May 7, 2019**

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

**Roll Call**

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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 Meeting Announcement:

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.

**Announcement of Executive Session**

Mr. Tuefert moved, seconded by Mrs. Andriac, 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 6:02 PM.

Mr. Teufert moved, seconded by Mrs. Caramucci to close Executive Session at 7:15 PM.

Voice Vote: All were in favor

Mrs. Andriac moved, seconded by Mrs. Kurtzman to reopen Regular Session at 7:15 PM.

Voice Vote: All were in favor

### **CSA Report**

### **SBA Report**

- Mr. Capone and Mr. Hagl conducted a Power Point Presentation of the 2019-2020 fiscal year budget.

### **Correspondence**

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mrs. Andriac moved, seconded by Mr. Teufert, **BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the minutes of April 16, 2019.

Mrs. Spinapolice requested amendments to the minutes of April 16, 2019.

Mr. Hagl requested the Board table the minutes of April 16, 2019 to allow time for the amendments.

Mr. Teufert moved, seconded by Mrs. Andriac to table the minutes of April 16, 2019.

Voice vote: All voted yes

## **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. Andriac moved, seconded by Mr. Teufert that the Board open the meeting for public comment at 7:32 PM.

Voice vote: All were in favor

Dawn Marion stated in her 24 years of teaching in Montague, she has never been so disgusted. She cited, A Growing Administration, Teacher Reductions and a leaking roof in her classroom. She also stated her opinion that this is a toxic building. Mrs. Marion expressed her disgust regarding the Superintendent's raise.

Stephanie Guida spoke as a taxpayer and educator regarding her disappointment of teacher names missing from the rehire list. Mrs. Guida discussed her disapproval of the RTI program. She also commented on bogus programs and lack of leadership in our district. However, she did commend the STEM program.

Mrs. Marion questioned the hiring of an English teacher at an annual salary of \$74,000.

Mrs. Andriac moved, seconded by Mr. Teufert that the Board close the meeting for public comment at 7:42 PM.

Voice vote: All were in favor

**Action Items**

Mr. Plotsky requested the Board block vote motions A-1 thru A-2.

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

Date	Destination	Cost
May 14, 2019	Kittatinny Regional High School	Transportation Cost \$214.20
May 31, 2019	NJ Symphony Orchestra at Sparta High School	\$248.00

**A-2 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve moving a bus stop from intersection Wagon Wheel and Shore Roads to 306 Shore Road.

Moved by: Mrs. Andriac

Seconded by: Mr. Teufert

Roll Call	Andriac	Caramucci	Cole	Kurtzman	Plotsky	Spinapolicce	Teufert	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								0
ABSTAIN								0
ABSENT								0

Mr. Plotsky requested the Board block vote motions F-1 thru F-6.

**F-1 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the May 1, 2019 thru May 7, 2019 - Bill List attached and listed below:

	Check Numbers	Amount
Regular Bill List	A:24767-A:24870	\$ 240,693.23
Lunch Program	N1703	\$ 10,375.60

**F-2 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approves the Fiscal Year 2019 Grant Acceptance Certification (GAC) - Reallocation Title I in the amount of \$8,544.

**F-3 WHEREAS**, It has come to the attention of the Montague Board of Education administration that two (2) additional students will be attending the Sussex County Charter School in the 2019-2020 school year, and

**WHEREAS**, This information became available after the Sussex County Superintendent's Office approved the Montague Board of Education's 2019-2020 fiscal year Preliminary Budget, and

**WHEREAS**, It is necessary to increase the 2019-2020 fiscal year Preliminary Budget of the Montague Board of Education to ensure adequate funds are available for the two (2) additional students attending Sussex County Charter School,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Montague Board of Education increase its final 2019-2020 fiscal year budget in the indicated revenue and appropriation accounts as follows:

- **Local Tax Levy** **10-1210** **\$42,994**
- **Transfer of Funds to Charter Schools** **10-000-100-56X** **\$42,994**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Montague Board of Education approve the submission of the **revised final** 2019/2020 fiscal year school budget to the Sussex County Executive Superintendent of Schools for approval as follows:

	<u><b>Budget</b></u>	<u><b>Local Tax Levy</b></u>
<b>Total General Fund</b>	\$ 9,141,481	\$ 6,552,974
<b>Total Special Revenue Fund</b>	\$ 218,980	\$ 0
<b>Total Debt Service Fund</b>	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>Totals</b>	\$ 9,360,461	\$ 6,552,974

**BE IT ADDITIONALLY RESOLVED**, that Montague Board of Education authorize the utilization of Unassigned Fund Balance as of June 30, 2018, in the amount of \$96,973 to the 2019/2020 fiscal year budget, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Montague Board of Education accepts the Enrollment Adjustment in the amount of \$682,640 to be partial utilized in its 2019/2020 budget and the balance to be carryforward as Banked CAP.

**F-4 WHEREAS**, the Montague Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$150 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq., but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Montague Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Montague Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b), to a maximum expenditure of \$46,897 for all staff and board members.

**F-5 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the attached SUSSEX REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COOPERATIVE – RESOLUTION FOR PARTICIPATION IN JOINT AGREEMENT for Athlete / Field Trip transportation at a two percent (2%) administration fee. The duration of this agreement shall be from July 1, 2019 thru June 30, 2020.

**F-6 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the attached SUSSEX REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COOPERATIVE – RESOLUTION FOR PARTICIPATION IN JOINT AGREEMENT for Special Education transportation at a four percent (4%) administration fee. The duration of this agreement shall be from July 1, 2019 thru June 30, 2020.

**Moved by:**

**Seconded by:**

Roll Call	Andriac	Caramucci	Cole	Kurtzman	Plotsky	Spinapolicc	Teufert	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								0
ABSTAIN								0
ABSENT								0

Mr. Plotsky questioned Mr. Capone whether the Art program will be the same next year.

Mr. Capone confirmed the Art program will be the same next year.

Mr. Plotsky requested the Board block vote motions P-1 thru P-9.

Mrs. Cole requested separating motions P3 & P4.

Mr. Plotsky suggested Mrs. Cole identify motions separately when voting.

**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-3 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the hiring of John Nittolo as the Supervisor of Special Education effective June 1, 2019 at an annual rate of \$99,000, prorated for the remainder of the 2018/2019 school year.

**P-4 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the hiring of John Nittolo as the Supervisor of Special Education at an annual rate of \$99,000, for the 2019/2020 school year.

**P-5 WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 18A:28-9 provides that a board of education may “reduce the number of teaching staff members employed in the district whenever, in the judgment of the board, it is advisable to abolish any such positions for reasons of economy or because of reduction in the number of pupils or of change in the administrative or supervisory organization of the district or for other good cause;”

**WHEREAS**, for reasons of economy, and position and staffing restructuring in light of current District operational needs and student enrollment the following existing full-time employee (“FTE”) positions are recommended for abolishment: of two (2) Elementary Teacher Positions

**WHEREAS**, based foregoing and information provided by the Superintendent, the Board finds it advisable to reduce the total number of positions in the District for the 2019-2020 school year through a reduction in force;

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Board of Education as follows:

1. That two (2) Elementary Teacher positions are hereby eliminated as a result of a reduction in force;
2. That affected employees will promptly receive appropriate notification of their respective employment status; and
3. That the Superintendent or his/her designee is authorized to provide the necessary notification to affected employees.

**P-6 WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 18A:28-9 provides that a board of education may “reduce the number of teaching staff members employed in the district whenever, in the judgment of the board, it is advisable to abolish any such positions for reasons of economy or because of reduction in the number of pupils or of change in the administrative or supervisory organization of the district or for other good cause;”

**WHEREAS**, for reasons of economy, and position and staffing restructuring in light of current District operational needs and student enrollment the following existing full time employee (“FTE”) positions are recommended for abolishment: of one (1) Art Teacher Position

**WHEREAS**, based foregoing and information provided by the Superintendent, the Board finds it advisable to reduce the total number of positions in the District for the 2019-2020 school year through a reduction in force;

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Board of Education as follows:

1. That one (1) Art Teacher position are hereby eliminated as a result of a reduction in force;
2. That affected employees will promptly receive appropriate notification of their respective employment status; and
3. That the Superintendent or his/her designee is authorized to provide the necessary notification to affected employees.

**P-7 WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 18A:28-9 provides that a board of education may “reduce the number of teaching staff members employed in the district whenever, in the judgment of the board, it is advisable to abolish any such positions for reasons of economy or because of reduction in the number of pupils or of change in the administrative or supervisory organization of the district or for other good cause;”

**WHEREAS**, for reasons of economy, and position and staffing restructuring in light of current District operational needs and student enrollment the following existing employee positions are recommended for abolishment:

three (3) Full-time Custodian Positions

one (1) Part-time Custodian Position

**WHEREAS**, based foregoing and information provided by the Superintendent, the Board finds it advisable to reduce the total number of positions in the District for the 2019-2020 school year through a reduction in force;

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Board of Education as follows:

1. That three (3) Full-time Custodian positions and one (1) part-time Custodian position are hereby eliminated as a result of a reduction in force;
2. That affected employees will promptly receive appropriate notification of their respective employment status; and
3. That the Superintendent or his/her designee is authorized to provide the necessary notification to affected employees.

**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-9 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the following reappointments for the 2019/2020 school year:

**ADMINISTRATION & NON-UNION SUPPORT STAFF (Individual Contracts)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Timothy Capone	Superintendent
Erkan Gumustekin	Asst. SBA
Michelle LaStarza	Treasurer of School Monies
Geneve Meli	Supervisor of Instruction (Max. 60 Days Per Year)
Alvinna Mheiny	Confidential District Office Secretary
Aldijana Reckovic	Confidential Clerk/Nutrition Coordinator
Mark Romano	IT Specialist/Project Manager
Kelly Schoch	Confidential Office Clerk
Darrell Stewart	Transportation/Facilities/Custodial Manager
Paola Marino	Supervisor of Testing / Title I

**TEACHERS (Collective Agreement) - TENURED**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Brenten Runne	Elementary School Teacher
Carl Ferriere	Teacher of Mathematics/Elementary School Teacher
Dawn Marion	Elementary School Teacher
Debra Vigorito	Elementary School Teacher
Denise Bellini	Elementary School Teacher
Frances Varacalli	Special Education Teacher
Jennifer Battikha	Elementary School Teacher
Jody Taylor	Teacher of Music
Karen Goyette	Elementary School Teacher/ Librarian
Leslie Coolong	Teacher of English/Special Education Teacher
Linda Willeford	Elementary School Teacher
Lorie Jeskey	Special Education Teacher/Elementary School Teacher
Lynne Antonucci	Special Education Teacher/Elementary School Teacher
Michelle Visco	Elementary School Teacher
Nancy Wright	Teacher of Health and Physical Education/Elementary School Teacher
Stacey Blasdell	Special Education Teacher/Elementary School Teacher
Taffy Banghart	Elementary School Teacher
Victoria Pauciello	Special Education Teacher/Elementary School Teacher

**TEACHERS (Collective Agreement) - NON TENURED**

Name	Position
Adriana Kuzicki	School Nurse
Aimee Castellana	Teacher of English/Elementary School Teacher
Chandler Howard	Special Education Teacher/Elementary School Teacher
Christina DeCola	Speech Therapist
Clancey Lane	Teacher of Spanish/ Elementary School Teacher
Danielle LaStarza	School Guidance Counselor/School Social Worker
Kelly Edsall	School Psychologist
Marta Baez	Teacher of Health and Physical Education/Teacher of Science
Rebecca Dann	Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Teacher

**CUSTODIANS / BUS DRIVERS (Collective Agreement)**

Name	Position
Karen Moriarty	Part Time Bus Driver/Custodian
Tracy Greco	Part Time Bus Aide

**PARAPROFESSIONALS**

Name	Position
Amy Wilson	Paraprofessional
Kim Hart	Paraprofessional
Victoria Razumov	Paraprofessional

Moved by: Mrs. Andriac

Seconded by: Mrs. Cole

Roll Call	Andriac	Caramucci	Cole	Kurtzman	Plotsky	Spinapolice	Teufert	Total
<b>YES</b>	X	X	Yes – Motions P-1, P2, P-5, P-6, P-7, P-8 & P-9	X	X	X	X	6 Yes – Motions P-1, P2, P-5, P-6, P-7, P-8 & P-9 Only
<b>NO</b>			No- Motions P-3&P-4					1 Motion P-3 & P- 4 Only
<b>ABSTAIN</b>								0
<b>ABSENT</b>								0

**Unfinished Business**

The presence of a nurse during the extended school year was discussed.

**New Business**

The Board decided to cancel the next scheduled meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The next meeting of the Montague Board of Education is scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment**

Mrs. Andriac moved, seconded by Mr. Teufert, that the Board adjourned its meeting at 7:47 PM.

Voice vote: All were in favor

Respectfully submitted,

George Hagl  
Interim Business Administrator / Board Secretary