

**Montague Township Board of Education Meeting
Regular Meeting Agenda
April 13, 2020
6:00 pm**

I. Call to Order by Mr. Plotsky at 6:06PM.

II. Roll Call

	Present	Absent
Dale Bouma	X	
Paul Brislin	X	
Jennifer Caramucci	X	
Danielle Christmann		X
Billy Underwood	X	
Charles Teufert, Vice President	X	
Glen Plotsky, President	X	

Others Present:

Timothy Capone - Chief School Administrator
Maria Costa – Board Secretary (Remote)

III. Flag Salute

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

V. 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 Sunday New Jersey Herald.

VI. Announcement of Executive Session

VII. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Township Board of Education recess and proceed to executive session to discuss personnel matters and legal issues. Action may or may not be taken.

- Motion to open Executive Session at 6:07pm
- Motion Mr. Teufert 2nd Mrs. Caramucci
- Mr. Bouma, Mr. Brislin, Mrs. Caramucci, Mr. Underwood, Mr. Teufert, Mr. Plotsky all in favor.
- Mrs. Christmann Absent.

- Motion to close Executive Session at 7:12pm
- Motion Mr. Teufert 2nd Paul Brislin
- Mr. Bouma, Mr. Brislin, Mrs. Caramucci, Mr. Underwood, Mr. Teufert, Mr. Plotsky all in favor.
- Mrs. Christmann Absent.

- Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at 7:12pm
- Motion Mr. Teufert 2nd Paul Brislin
- Mr. Bouma, Mr. Brislin, Mrs. Caramucci, Mr. Underwood, Mr. Teufert, Mr. Plotsky all in favor.
- Mrs. Christmann Absent

VIII. CSA Report

➤ Mr. Capone

- The Good night Montague Bears Program has been positive for the staff and the students. It will continue.

- Mr. Capone shared data that will be posted online.
 - Comparative Tax Rate
 - Mr. Capone shared how there was an article done in the Star Ledger comparing tax rates in all of Sussex County. Montague is the lowest in the county besides Walpack.
 - Montague's Percentile Rank in the county and against VFG.
 - Putting data together on statewide data with performance with like schools.
 - More accurate way of evaluating schools and overall performance.

- Budget Numbers
 - Next year's budget, the monies the State gave is \$546,923. This is to pay to Charter School and busing for those students.
 - Per Mr. Capone, this is a large portion of our budget that goes toward this. We are going to include the data as far as performance.
 - Performance rate 46% economically disadvantage gap between Montague and Sussex Charter but in all the areas Montague outperforms Charter with a 4% gap between Montague and Sussex.
 - Mr. Capone highlighted the success of our Algebra I program. Algebra I 8th graders outperform High Point. In regards to testing all students, Montague had a much higher percentage where Sussex Charter had 17% students pass 8th grade math. 51% of Students that were selected to take Algebra I passed. Montague's **overall rate with all students** taking Algebra I and passing Algebra I was 44%.

- HIB Report 022320 – Mr. Capone asks for a motion to affirm the HIB Report
Motion Paul Brislin, Second Charles Teufert
Mr. Bouma, Mr. Brislin, Mrs. Caramucci, Mr. Underwood, Mr. Teufert, and Mr. Plotsky all in favor.
Mrs. Christmann Absent.

IX. SBA Report, None

X. Correspondence , None

XI. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bouma motioned to make the following edits to the March 16, 2020 board meeting minutes. Mr. Teufert seconded.

- Approval of minutes February 24- note Mr. Underwood Absent.
- Include the budget numbers in the minutes.
- Add Discussion around the budget in the minutes.

Moved: Mr. Bouma

Seconded: Mr. Teufert

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X		X	X	X	6
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT				X				1

XII. Public Session – Agenda Items

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.

Mr. Plotsky motioned that the first public comments session will be held only to comments on the agenda.

Mr. Plotsky motioned that the second public comments session be held to one 3 minute session.

- Motion by Mr. Plotsky, 2nd by Mr. Teufert
- Mr. Bouma, Mr. Brislin, Mrs. Caramucci Mr. Underwood, Mr. Teufert, Mr. Plotsky all in favor.

- Mrs. Christmann Absent.

Motion to open public comment at 7:21pm

Motion Mr. Bouma 2nd Mr. Teufert

Mr. Bouma, Mr. Brislin, Mrs. Caramucci, Mr. Underwood, Mr. Teufert, Mr. Plotsky all in favor.
Mrs. Christmann Absent.

Mr. Mannion – stated that the Star Ledger report should take out the Country Club and feels that the Montague Township School is the most expensive school per taxpayer in Sussex County.
Commented on folks not wearing masks.

Motion to close public comment, agenda items at 7:30pm

Motion Mr. Brislin 2nd Charles Teufert

Mr. Bouma, Mr. Brislin, Mrs. Caramucci, Mr. Underwood, Mr. Teufert, Mr. Plotsky all in favor.
Mrs. Christmann Absent.

XIII. Action Items

A-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the following workshop attendance:

Workshop	Attendee	Date- 6 Weeks	Location	Cost
NJASBO-Microsoft Excel-Webinar	Erkan Gumustekin	April 8 April 15 April 22 April 29 May 6 May 13	Webinar	\$150

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Jennifer Caramucci

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X		X	X	X	6
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT				X				1

XIV. Financial Items

F-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve March 17, 2020 thru April 13, 2020 - Bill List attached and listed below:

Regular Bill List	Check Numbers	Amount
	#A: N0329-0407	
	A:25541 - A:25571	\$506,369.29

- Paul Brislin wants to confirm that in this section there is not anything relevant to the budget.
- Mr. Plotsky confirmed that we are not approving anything regarding the budget except line item transfers.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Jennifer Caramucci

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES		X	X		X	X	X	5
NO								
ABSTAIN	X							1
ABSENT				X				1

F-2 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 February 2020.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Jennifer Caramucci

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES		X	X		X	X	X	5
NO								
ABSTAIN	X							1
ABSENT				X				1

F-3 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 February 2020.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Jennifer Caramucci

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES		X	X		X	X	X	5
NO								
ABSTAIN	X							1
ABSENT				X				1

F-4- BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-2.11(c) 3, the Board of Education certify that as of February 29 , 2020, after review of the Secretary’s monthly financial reports for February 29 , 2020 (appropriations section), and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, Montague BOE is in compliance with N.J.A.C 6A:23-2.11 (c) 4 and shall certify in the minutes of the Board each month that no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16:10(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Jennifer Caramucci

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES		X	X		X	X	X	5
NO								
ABSTAIN	X							1
ABSENT				X				1

F-5 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the attached list of line item transfers effective February 29 ,2020.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Jennifer Caramucci

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES		X	X		X	X	X	5
NO								
ABSTAIN	X							1
ABSENT				X				1

Mr. Plotsky made a motion that during Public Session comments be limited to 3 minutes one time per speaker.

Seconded by Mrs. Caramucci

- Mr. Brislin suggested comments be limited to 3 minutes two times per speaker.
- Mr. Plotsky’s issue with Mr. Brislin’s suggestion is that 3 minutes is a long time and when there is more than one opportunity, the public responds to each other’s comments rather than making comments to the board whereas the board can take action for the benefit of the school and students.
- Mr. Bouma suggested a 4 minute option. The speaker comes up once and can speak for four minutes.
- **Mr. Plotsky edited his motion one speaker can have one opportunity to speak for 4 minutes.**

Moved: Mr. Plotsky

Seconded: Mrs. Caramucci

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X		X		X	X	X	5
NO		X						1
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT				X				1

XV. Public Session

Public comment is invited on all matters pertaining to the school district. All participants shall be permitted four (4) 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.

Motion to open public comment at 7:37pm

Motion Mr. Bouma 2nd Charles Teufert

Mr. Bouma, Mr. Brislin, Mrs. Caramucci, Mr. Underwood, Mr. Teufert, Mr. Plotsky all in Favor
Mrs. Christmann Absent

John Mannion- Questioned how much the district saved and what did they do with the money when they got rid of the custodial staff and teachers.

Krista Mikulski- Will like the directions that were posted on the website to call into public session to be more specific. Asked for clarification regarding the 3 minute/ 4minute public session change. Questioned the CSA report regarding the percentage of children mentioned with the data presented.

Stephanie Guida- Questioned what the district's plan for distance learning upon return of spring break is.

Motion to close public comment at 7:55pm

Motion Mr. Brislin 2nd Mr. Teufert

Mr. Bouma, Mr. Brislin, Mrs. Caramucci, Mr. Underwood, Mr. Teufert, Mr. Plotsky all in favor.
Mrs. Christmann Absent

XVI. Unfinished Business

Mr. Capones Response:

- Mr. Capone explained the budget at the county office being approved is at 2% using a different revenue source. These revenues are not guaranteed so we typically don't budget them. If you lose this and it is not within your budget, this is something you will have to make up, based on timing when this loss is occurred, that will impact your budget.
- The bigger picture here is the State Aid cut came back 25% higher than previously projected over that 5 year period. This board needs to consider due to bank cap this year and bank cap next year.

- If you don't use the bank cap this year, look at consideration for next year. After that, the bank cap expires, and you will be held at 2% maximum. This is the long term plan based at what the state laid out as far as our cuts.

Mr. Brislin motioned that at our next meeting, the person that prepared the 7 page budget, BA Erkan Gumustekin be present at the next board meeting to answer questions.

Moved: Mr. Brislin

Seconded: Mr. Bouma

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES		X						1
NO			X		X		X	3
ABSTAIN	X					X		2
ABSENT				X				1

XVII. New Business

- Mr. Capone's response to Ms. Guida's question around remote learning.
 - This is something that we have looked into the parameters. Mr. Capone shared publicly on the Facebook page some of the concerns that have been addressed.
 - There is a plan moving forward depending on the length of the layoff is, we will adjust.
 - Our students have access online and hard copies if they need them. That is truly a decision of our families in what option they choose to exercise.
 - In re: to the request of programs of face to face classrooms. That is not something we anticipate using. If the board will like to start a policy for the management of this request, please start a conversation.
- Mr. Teufert asked during Public Session perhaps that people call in in advance to get on a list and then whoever is taking the calls, take one and get the next person on the line. An effort to streamline the process.
- Mr. Plotsky asked Mr. Capone to look into that.
- Mr. Capone will have a conversation with staff on how we can speed up the process.
- Mr. Plotsky acknowledges Mr. Mannion's comments where several board members entered the room and did not have masks. People who didn't have masks didn't want masks. It was Mr. Plotsky's request that they have masks once the board went live at 6pm. Mr. Plotsky explained that this is a unique scenario. Nobody has been through a time that the potential harm to others has been so dramatic.
- Mr. Plotsky thanked the fellow board members, Mr. Capone, staff for extending themselves for this responsibility. Mr. Plotsky personally thanked everyone for taking this so seriously.

XIX. Adjournment

Motion Mr. Brislin 2nd Mr. Teufert

Mr. Bouma, Mr. Brislin, Mrs. Caramucci, Mr. Underwood, Mr. Teufert, Mr. Plotsky all in favor.

Mrs. Christmann Absent.

Time of Adjournment: 8:05pm