

**Montague Township Board of Education Meeting  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
August 31, 2020  
6:00 pm**

**I. Call to Order 6:00PM**

**II. Roll Call**

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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 6:01pm  
Motion Paul Brislin 2<sup>nd</sup> Dale Bouma  
All in Favor

Motion to close Executive Session at 7:00pm  
Motion Paul Brislin 2<sup>nd</sup> Dale Bouma  
All in Favor

Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at 7:00pm  
Motion Jennifer Caramucci 2<sup>nd</sup> Danielle Christmann  
All in Favor

**VIII. CSA Report**

- Mr. Capone included the additional guidance received at the end of the past week regarding the school’s reopening plan.
- Presented the plan with as many requirements possible for a safe reopening
- Most recently was a request of a filtration system from NJA - Merv 17 filters.
- The current filtration system operating at the Montague Township School is different.
- In regards to Transportation, the Montague Township school sent out notification to high school students. After those were sent out, High Point notified that they changed their dismissal time.
- This morning, received the cohort information from High Point.
- Currently the Montague Township School students attending High Point will have one class per week and Sussex Tech is two classes per week.

**IX. SBA Report – None**

**X. Correspondence -None**

**XI. Approval of Minutes**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the minutes of the August 10, 2020 board meeting.

**Moved:** Charles Teufert

**Seconded:** Jennifer Caramucci

**Three Modifications to the agenda passed:**

1. Paul Brislin- On page 14, change the word passed to discussed regarding board goals.
2. Glen Plotsky- On page 12, correction to block vote.
3. Dale Bouma- On page 1, edit Regular Meeting Agenda to Regular Meeting Minutes.

**Charles Teufert amended the motion to approve minutes as amended, seconded by Jennifer Caramucci.**

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
<b>YES</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
<b>NO</b>								
<b>ABSTAIN</b>								
<b>ABSENT</b>								

**XII. Public Session – Agenda Items**

**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 7:13pm**

Motion Charles Teufert 2nd Dale Bouma

All in Favor

**No public comments.**

**Motion to close public comment at 7:17pm**

Motion Paul Brislin 2<sup>nd</sup> Dale Bouma

All in Favor

**XIII. Action Items**

**A-1** BE IT RESOLVED, that due to the impact of COVID-19, and concerns for the health and safety of students and staff, the Montague Township Board of Education will open the 2020-2021 school year with all-remote learning for students PK-8 through January return from holidays subject to review by BOE in November or sooner if circumstances required.

➤ **Discussion**

The Board of Education discussed the options for reopening the Montague Township School. Glen Plotsky stated that prior to the last meeting, the Superintendent's office and staff reached out to as many parents as they can on the phone. Would you like students to return to school or return virtually? The response was 50%. With that information, the Superintendent proposed both plans to the students. After the last meeting, some of the instruction with the guidance has changed, masks required to wear at school. With that information, discussion of the board, the administration again solicited information from the parents with the same questions. The results were 80/ 20. 80% of the parents wanted their students taught virtually and 20% will like students to return to the school at this building.

With this additional information, this action item is not at the direction of the Superintendent, it is on the Board of Education.

Dale Bouma- Feels that with the filtration, stick with staying virtual for now.

Paul Brislin- Questioned if we vote for the first trimester, are we locked in through the first trimester?

Mr. Plotsky stated nothing is locked COVID related.

Jennifer Caramucci- Understand that the majority of kids don't want to go back to school. Being on the board, make decisions based on everyone's kids. Speak of the 20% of parents who are working and essential employees, urge the board as some kind of accommodation.

Danielle Christmann- Safety should be the number one concern and does see as working parents will have a hard time. Without proper filters, there is a risk of germs. For safety, believe all remote should be a way to go.

Billy Underwood- Stated that at the last meeting, there were both options available.

Mr. Capone stated the determining factor is requiring the filtration system that was requested within the last week. The question is can you open the school safely?

Charles Teufert- Going virtual is the right answer. Perhaps open daycare or aftercare where the classes can be taken virtual.

**Charles Teufert modified motion and Dale Bouma seconded.**

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X	X		X	X	6
NO								0
ABSTAIN					X			1
ABSENT								

The Board of Education reviewed the option to cancel the First Student Transportation contract for the Montague Township School District Students.

The offer back from the bus company was a 90% cost with a 10% reduction.

- **Discussion**  
**What should the BOE decide to do with the transportation contracts.**

One of the options is cancel bus contracts, instead of asking for bids, quotes and will provide busing to High Point and the other High Schools – Make other arrangements.

**Based on the limited information up to this point, it would appear, cancel the bus contracts and purchase buses, hire drivers for those buses, the school will have a position in the contract of the unions.**

**Motion to rescind the transportation contract by First Student for the 2020 – 2021 academic year.**

**Moved: Charles Teufert**

**Seconded: Dale Bouma**

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X			X	X	5
NO								
ABSTAIN				X	X			2
ABSENT								

Mr. Plotsky asked Mr. Capone to obtain bus quotes for an appropriate number of school buses so the board can consider bus purchases.

- This is a long-term solution; permanent bids for these routes moving forward

Mr. Plotsky asked for consensus from the board to have Mr. Capone find the cost for the filtration system. Mr. Capone will research MERV 13 and MERV 17 filtration systems.

- All board members supported.

**P1 – P4, Glen Plotsky entertained a motion, Charles Teufert moved.**

**P-1 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the resignation of Cheyenne McDole effective August 25, 2020.

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

**P-2 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the resignation of Stacey Blasdell effective August 26, 2020.

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								

<b>ABSENT</b>								
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**P-3 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve Donna Reckovic, as the Secretary to the Business Administrator, at a prorated annual salary of \$42,000 for the remainder 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
<b>YES</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
<b>NO</b>								
<b>ABSTAIN</b>								
<b>ABSENT</b>								

**P-4 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve 1 day paid at the MEA rate for successfully completing Google I certification assessment and 1 day paid at the MEA rate for successfully completing Google II Certification assessment.

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
<b>YES</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
<b>NO</b>								
<b>ABSTAIN</b>								
<b>ABSENT</b>								

**XVII. 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.**

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**Motion to open public comment at 8:15pm**

Motion Charles Teufert 2<sup>nd</sup> Dale Bouma  
All in Favor

Krista Mikulski

- Questioned daughter's transportation to and from High Point.

Tasha DeGeorge

- There is no communication from the Montague Township School District.

Tracey Newsom

- Asked for information around buses to High Point and Sussex Tech.

Sarah Arias

- Inquired about the plan for the PRE-K Children.

**Motion to close public comment at 8:34pm**

Motion Paul Brislin 2<sup>nd</sup> Dale Bouma  
All in Favor

**XVIII. Unfinished Business**

None

**XIX. New Business**

**Charles Teufert asked Mr. Capone to look into feasibility for providing virtual environment for kids.**

**Mr. Capone stated that this wouldn't be a school day, it is a service provided.**

Danielle Christmann asked where does the all call policy fall.  
Before September 14, addressed at a policy meeting.

Jennifer Caramucci thanked everyone tonight to be at the school at short notice.

**XX. Executive Session if necessary:**

**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 \_\_\_\_pm  
Motion \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ All in Favor/Opposed

Motion to close Executive Session at \_\_\_\_pm  
Motion \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ All in Favor/Opposed

Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at \_\_\_\_pm  
Motion \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ All in Favor/Opposed

**XXI. Adjournment**

Motion Charles Teufert 2<sup>nd</sup> Danielle Christmann

All in Favor

Time of Adjournment: 8:40PM