

**Montague Township Board of Education Meeting
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2020
6:00 pm**

I. Call to Order

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

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 Jennifer Caramucci 2nd Charles Teufert

- Mr. Bouma, Mrs. Caramucci, Mr. Underwood, Mr. Teufert, Mr. Plotsky in favor.
- Mr. Brislin and Mrs. Christmann Abstain

Motion to close Executive Session at 7:06PM

Motion Jennifer Caramucci 2nd Paul Brislin

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

Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at 7:06PM

Motion Jennifer Caramucci 2nd Danielle Christmann

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

VIII. CSA Report

- Kathy Helewa, New Jersey School Boards Field Service Representative, held a training on School Board Ethics. It was confirmed that personnel and student information are confidential and cannot be shared publicly.
- Mr. Capone reads the letter from the attorney regarding filing from High Point.
- Mr. Capone addresses comments from January 27, 2020 Public Session.
- Topic of Slander addressed to Barbara Holstein.
 - Mr. Capone's Response
 - Slander must be false.
 - Saying something that is true may be unfortunate but still true.
 - Prior statement from Barbara Holstein that violated administration rights by any person I have ever seen. Mr. Capone's directs a question to Barbara Holstein, "Why were you only here for two years?" Feel free to provide examples of violation.
 - Mrs. Holstein had previously stated that the school board, because of a loophole illegally increased taxes over 2%,
 - Mr. Capone asks Barbara Holstein "Why is it that a board member and former educator doesn't know how the budget formula works?"
 - Mr. Capone asked "Can a district go over 2%?" Mrs. Holstein answered no. Mr. Capone corrects her that the answer is yes.
 - "The problem is we have someone that comes to meetings and says something that is untrue and there are people that may believe her and think she was knowledgeable."
 - Last year, the board could have raised taxes up to 12.9%. This year it is about 10%. This is because of bank cap. Mr. Capone states that you would think a former board member would know that. Misinformation is being shared by people who are not knowledgeable.

Paul Brislin moved to request Recess due to behavior of individuals in the audience at 8:20pm. Mrs. Caramucci seconded.

- Mr. Bouma, Mr. Brislin, Mrs. Caramucci, Mrs. Christmann, Mr. Underwood, Mr. Teufert, Mr. Plotsky All in Favor.

Paul Brislin moved to open the regular meeting at 8:25pm. Mr. Teufert Seconded.

- Mr. Bouma, Mr. Brislin, Mrs. Caramucci, Mrs. Christmann, Mr. Underwood, Mr. Teufert, Mr. Plotsky All in Favor.

CSA Report continued.

- Mr. Capone spoke about State Aid Reduction.
- Mr. Capone spoke about Tuition costs.
- Board look at where we are currently, costs to incur and where are places to raise the tax rate or what cuts are you going to make.
- Tuition state aid cut, and staff and salaries.

- The Board will have hard decisions at % increase or be able to identify these cuts.
- 41% reduction in tuition costs with send-receive to Port Jervis.

IX. SBA Report

- Mrs. Costa gave an OPRA report to the Board Members that as of January 2020, there was 13 Requestors and about 30 + individual item OPRA Requests.

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 January 27, 2020 board meeting.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Dale Bouma

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

I. 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.

Motion to open public comment at 8:43PM

Motion Paul Brislin 2nd Charles Teufert

- Mr. Bouma, Mr. Brislin, Mrs. Caramucci, Mrs. Christmann, Mr. Underwood, Mr. Teufert, Mr. Plotsky All in Favor.

- John Mannion
 - Take the burden of the property tax off the taxpayers.
- Stephanie Guida
 - Asked Mr. Capone to provide the statute he used for High Point /Point Jervis send receive.
- Barbara Holstein
 - Played audio from another district's board of education meeting.
- Denise Vogel
 - The Board is here to follow through on Superintendent's recommendation. Questioning staff for a K-8 District.
- Caitlin Borrás
 - Children with IEP in a restricted environment. It can be successful when successfully implemented. Children with IEP are easily distractible.
- Ellie Murphy
 - Read a comment from Naomi Lafleur-Johnson.
- Tasha DeGeorge
 - Alleges the community is being excluded.
- John Mannion
 - Addressed the Board to take away 10% of Superintendent's pay.
- Stephanie Guida
 - Montague was not permitted in High Point District Choir.
- Barbara Holstein
 - Played audio from another district's board of education meeting.
- Stephanie Guida
 - Questioned merit pay.
- John Mannion
 - Mentioned to have agenda items only and meeting on the end that concerned taxpayers and voters may have.

- Ellie Murphy
 - Was a teacher for 21 years and had 18 different administrators. Staff maintained a good stability rate.

- Doris Mannion
 - Asked the BOE that when Eric calls this time, pick up the phone and give him honest answers.

- Cathy Ganska
 - Stated that kindergartners are upset with current situation.

- Kim Hart
 - Thanked the board for the presentation this evening. She is an 18-year employee of this school. We are 100% behind Timothy Capone.

- Lindsay Brigham
 - Addressed Kindergarten change.

- Barbara Holstein
 - Tuition savings -as of the year quoted- shows that by the last year of the contract Port Jervis would be more than High Point.

Motion to close public comment at 9:24PM

Motion Charles Teufert 2nd Paul Brislin

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

XII. 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 | Location | Cost |
|---|--|-------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Updating Your Long-Range Facility Plan (LRFP) | Erkan Gumustekin (BA) | February 19, 2020 | NJASBO Office - Robbinsville, NJ | Free Registration Plus: Mileage/Tolls in accordance with OMB guidelines |
| 2020 Statewide Assessment District Test Coordinator and District Technology | John Nittolo Mark Romano James Andriac | February 26, 2020 | Birchwood Manor Whippany, NJ | Free Registration Mileage/ Tolls in accordance with OMB guidelines |

| | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------|--|---|
| Coordinator Training | | | | |
| NJ Council for Exceptional Children 2020 Conference (Professional Development) | Melissa Martinique | March 16, 2020 | Ramapo College of New Jersey Mahwah, NJ | \$105 Registration Plus: Mileage/ Tolls in accordance with OMB Guidelines |
| Comprehensive IMSE Orton-Gillingham Training | Chandler Howard Brenten Runne Debra Vigorito Christina DeCola | May 11 – 15, 2020 | Hampton by Hilton 350 Morris Avenue Rockaway, NJ | \$1275 Registration Total = \$5100 Plus: Mileage/ Tolls in accordance with OMB Guidelines |

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Dale Bouma

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

A-2 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve a Special Education Initiative FY 2021 (SEMI) participation waiver.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Dale Bouma

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

A-3 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Garden State Schools Insurance Fund Non-Binding Resolution of Intent to Join.

B

WHEREAS, a number of local governmental units in various parts of the State of New Jersey have joined together to form a School Board Insurance Group joint self-insurance fund as permitted by N.J.S.A. 18A:18B-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, there has been discussion regarding the formation of a GARDEN STATE SCHOOLS INSURANCE FUND (GSSIF) for local governmental units;

WHEREAS, the statutes and regulations governing the creation and operation of a School Board Insurance Group contain elaborate restrictions and safeguards concerning the safe and efficient administration of the public interest entrusted to such a Group; and

WHEREAS, the Montague Township Board of Education has determined that membership in the GSSIF would be in the best interest of itself and its citizens;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montague Township Board of Education does hereby resolve that the Montague Township Board of Education intends to become a member of the GSSIF for the purpose of establishing the following types of coverage:

1. Workers' compensation and employers' liability;
2. General liability, including employment practices and school board legal liability;
3. Motor vehicle liability;
4. Crime, employee dishonesty and position bonds; and
5. Property damage (buildings, contents, equipment and motor vehicles);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such membership is subject to the right to accept the terms of membership when the same is received from the GSSIF; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such membership is subject to the right to accept the Bylaws and Initial Assessment of the GSSIF, as approved and adopted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:10-39, when the same is received from the GSSIF.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Dale Bouma

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

XIII. Financial Items

F-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve January 28, 2020 thru February 10, 2020 - Bill List attached and listed below:

| | Check Numbers | Amount |
|-------------------|---|--------------|
| Regular Bill List | #A:N0130, N0131, N0205 A:25418-A:25467 | \$321,580.33 |
| Lunch Program | F: N1719 | \$12,448.50 |

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Paul Brislin

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

P-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve Anna Dawson, as a Special Education/Elementary Teacher, at Step A BA (\$56,001) prorated for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, effective on or about February 24, 2020.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Jennifer Caramucci

| 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 Township Board of Education approve Chandler Howard, as Softball Coach, in accordance with the MEA contract.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Jennifer Caramucci

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

P-3 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve Christina DeCola, as Track and Field Coach, in accordance with the MEA contract.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Jennifer Caramucci

| Roll Call | Bouma | Brislin | Caramucci | Christmann | Underwood | Teufert | Plotsky | Total |
|-----------|-------|---------|-----------|------------|-----------|---------|---------|-------|
| | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| YES | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 7 |
| NO | | | | | | | | |
| ABSTAIN | | | | | | | | |
| ABSENT | | | | | | | | |

P-4 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve Tracy Greco to attend Ideal Driving School at a cost of \$1400 to complete CDL training.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Jennifer Caramucci

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

XIV. Unfinished Business

- None

XV. New Business

First public comments to be limited to agenda items only. The second public comments period will be after the action items before the unfinished business.

Moved: Paul Brislin

Seconded: Charles Teufert

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

Motion to recommend OPRA requests/ charges to the Montague Township Attorney.

Moved: Paul Brislin

Seconded: Glen Plotsky

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

Provide online access of board packets to board members rather than hand deliver board packets to board members.

Moved: Paul Brislin

Seconded: Glen Plotsky

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

XVII. Adjournment

Motion Jennifer Caramucci 2nd Charles Teufert

- Mr. Bouma, Mr. Brislin, Mrs. Caramucci, Mrs. Christmann, Mr. Underwood, Mr. Teufert, Mr. Plotsky
- All in favor.

Time of Adjournment: 9:45PM