

**Montague Township Board of Education Meeting
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2020
6:00 pm**

Mr. Plotsky called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

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

Flag Salute

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 Township 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 Sunday New Jersey Herald

Executive Session

Motion to open Executive Session at 6:02 PM.

Moved: Jennifer Caramucci

Seconded: Charles Teufert

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

Close Executive Session at 7:23PM.

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								

Re-open the Regular Meeting at 7:23 PM.

Moved: Jennifer Caramucci

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								

CSA Report

Timothy Capone's response to the Public Comments from the January 7, 2020 Board of Education Meeting.

Anthony Mastroeni, President of Montague Little League requested approval for Winter Clinics.

- Approved and went well with no issues.

Caitlin Borrás- Stated students with IEPs pulled from classes. Special Education students are a distraction to other students, hard for teachers to do what they do.

Mr. Capone's Response:

- Her comments are offensive and discriminatory.

Kathy Ganska came to the Montague Township School for the holiday party on December 20. She was not approved. Claims the denial came from another parent.

Mr. Capone's Response:

- That was not true as she was not approved as a parent chaperone and therefore couldn't join the class party.
- Mr. Capone had a meeting with Mrs. Ganska where she denied the information and was concerned about the coffee cart was a disruption to the educational process and as to why it was provided by the PTA. Mr. Capone polled the staff and not one staff member believed the coffee cart to be a disruption.
- What is the issue with the PTA? Statement from the PTA Audit Committee that an incident occurred in April where the Executive Board had to audit fundraisers where Kathy Ganska was the chairperson. Money was unaccounted for. The PTA made the executive decision to take the books and financial documents from her and wait until the new treasurer can start in July. Not a question if money was missing, only how much was missing.

Nick Dalacio- Why is our superintendent in the press so much when good things are happening in the school?

Mr. Capone's Response:

- Unethical reporter whom doesn't research with his articles.
- For example, the recent story with Jamie Lemelledo January 27, 2020. Reporter Eric Obernauer did not include the entire set of allegations in the letter.

Jamie Lemelledo- On September 23 she received a letter in the mail outlining repeated disorderly conduct at the school and violating school safety protocols. She says it is a false accusation and vendetta against her.

Mr. Capone's Response:

- Google Jamie Lemelledo and disorderly conduct.
- Mr. Capone addressed Eric Obernauer. regarding the article highlighting Jamie and her response to letter sent to her from the school. "Did you do the due diligence on the article, do you know who you are quoting, or you take any random statement from them, did you vet your sources?"
- In response to mold at the Montague Township School, Mr. Capone stated that there is no evidence of mold. The Sussex County Health Department was at the Montague Township school in November 2019 following the allegation.

John Mannion stated that the NJ Herald is a trusted source of news in Sussex County.

Mr. Capone's Response:

- Last article outrageous number of false statements.
- Mr. Capone questions the reporter Eric Obernauer., "Did you do your due diligence and conduct a review of student records?" Mr. Obernauer did not respond.

Moving forward, Mr. Capone stated that he will respond to comments from public session during this time at the Board of Education meetings.

There were two recognitions:

Linda Willeford Teacher of the Year and Danielle La Starza, as Educational Service of the Year.

Mrs. Linda Willeford is a Model Teacher- children succeed knows their teacher cares about them and inspires them daily through engaging activities. Mrs. Willeford is a Vice President of the PTA and most deserving of this recognition.

Danielle La Starza adapts quickly, multitask, social worker, residency worker, truancy officer, anti-bullying specialist and she is an integral part of preparing students for high school. She also is involved in case managing, overseeing IEP, student evaluations and address truanicies among other responsibilities.

SBA Report

- At the next meeting, Mrs. Costa will report about the extensive amount of Opra requests received because of the time, money, resources, legal fees required by our team to provide all the information that is requested.

Correspondence- Stephanie Guida emailed correspondence to Mr. Plotsky around January 13 related to some conditions in the parking lot and another re: the honor roll.

Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the minutes on January 7, 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								

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.

Public comments to open at 7:40 PM.

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								

Stephanie Guida

- Asked why Montague did not reply about the District Choir.

John Mannion

- Wants Mr. Capone and Mr. Plotsky to reply to the NJ Herald.
- Mr. Mannion wants to watch the videos. Wants a member of the board to make a motion before any member of the public is ban.
 - Mr. Capone responds back that Mr. Mannion asks questions about confidential personnel items. The NJ Herald reporter Eric Obernauer writes articles about Mr. Mannion’s comments not actual evidence. His comments are made without any facts. Mr. Capone states he cannot show videos or share personnel, or student videos. This is a confidentiality issue.

Charles Fletcher

- Received an email from the school about an incident with his daughter. He feels it is a false report.

Jamie Lemelledo

- Get rid of Capone.

Kim Hart

- Congratulations to the Montague Township Teacher of the Year Linda Willeford and the Professional of the Year Danielle Lasterza.
- Proud of our district.
- Get to see the staff and administration along with commitment, support of all activities that form relationships with everyone that walks these halls. Proud to be here at the Montague Township School.

Barbara Holstein

- Requesting the board members that didn’t hire Mr. Capone to evaluate him.
- Addressed Mr. Capone’s statement of Caitlin Borrás and stated that he has not been truthful.

Kathy Ganska

- Happy to meet with Mr. Capone and board members regarding the statement about the comment from last board meeting.

Krista Mikulski

- Congratulates the new board members.
- Should not report data unless it is from all schools.
- Send/ Receive to Port- feasibility study- travel/ safety piece reviewed.

John Mannion

- Stated Mr. Capone does not have the right to hire the way he does.

Barbara Holstein

- Read a statement for Caitlyn Borrás, with all the stress going on these days, parents should feel children are 100% safe.

Dana Murray & Danielle Conklin on Behalf of the PTA

- Proposed the TREPS program that teaches kids on how to create a project and sell it.

Stephanie Guida

- Supports the TREPS program.

Jamie Lemelledo

- Get rid of Capone.

Barbara Holstein

- Asked the Board Members to review Mr. Capone's behavior.

Jamie Lemelledo

- Why is Timothy Capone still at the Montague School? Get rid of Capone.

Mark Crebs

- Mr. Capone reported to the town committee as a courtesy about all the good things happening at the Montague School. Wants there to be increased communication.

Stephanie Guida

- High Point music event was a great example of what can happen when we come together.

John Mannion

- Enlighten the public at the township committee.

Close public comment at 7:47 PM.

Moved: Jennifer Caramucci

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								

Action Items

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

Liberty Science Center	June 2, 2020 23 Students 3 Adults	Total: \$331.00	Booked
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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 that Business Administrator, Erkan Gumustekin, be designated a Public Agency Compliance Officer (P.A.C.O.) in accordance with N.J.A.C 17:27-3.2.

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 accept the Native American Donation to the Montague Township School from Stephen A. Rapole and Joseph J. Rapole.

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-4 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education accept the report of all actions of violence, vandalism, and harassment, intimidation, and bullying (HIB) that occurred.

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								

Financial Items

F-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve January 8, 2020 thru January 27, 2020 - Bill List attached and listed below:

	Check Numbers	Amount
Regular Bill List	#A:N0108, N0115 A:25351-A:25429	\$970,882.76
Lunch Program	F: N1718	\$13.19

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								

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

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								

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

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								

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

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								

F-5 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education in accordance with N.J.S.A 18A:18A-7 approve the emergency purchase of a replacement emergency grinder septic pumps and electric services.
North Jersey Septic Inc : \$14,600.00.
Kieffer Electric Inc : \$1,185.08

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								

F-6 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the attached bank signatories list, adding Alvinna Mheiny retroactively from January 7, 2020.

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								

Unfinished Business – No Unfinished Business.

New Business

- Paul Brislin suggests to transfer the Executive Session in its entirety from the beginning of the meeting to the end of the meeting.
- Charles Teufert states that the issue with making that change is that the public will not be at the board meeting after the Executive Session and will not have the opportunity to comment on legal and personnel items.
- Glen Plotsky stated that the difficulty with Paul Brislin’s proposal is that the public must have an opportunity to comment on the motions. It will not work unless we have two public comment sessions.
- Jennifer Caramucci is concerned about having the Executive Session last because members of the public are working, and it is difficult to arrive at the school by 6pm. As a parent, 7pm is a more feasible time for those to come to the board meetings.

Board Meetings will open at 6pm going into Executive Session. Executive Session will not end prior to 7pm.

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		X						1
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

TREPS Program

- Presented by the PTA.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Paul Brislin

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

Adjournment: 8:31PM

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								