

**Montague Township Board of Education Meeting
Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2020
6:00 pm**

Maria Costa, Board Secretary, called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Maria Costa requested those present to join her in the salute to our Flag.

Maria Costa read the following Mission Statement

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.

Maria Costa read the following announcement of this meeting.

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.

Maria Costa read the official results of the annual school election.

Montague Township Board of Education Members
Vote for Three (3)
Three Year Terms

Candidates	Total Votes	Percentage Votes
Paul Brislin	606	28%
Danielle Christmann	519	24%
Dale Bouma, Jr.	497	22%
Sally Kurtzman	284	13%
Linda Spinapolice	277	13%

Maria Costa administered the oath of office to the newly-elected Board members:

- Paul Brislin
- Danielle Christmann
- Dale J. Bouma, Jr.

Maria Costa conducted a roll call.

	Present	Absent
Dale J. Bouma, Jr	X	
Paul Brislin	X	
Jennifer Caramucci	X	
Danielle Christmann	X	
Glen Plotsky	X	
Charles Teufert	X	
Billy Underwood	X	

Others Present:
 Timothy Capone - Chief School Administrator
 Maria Costa – Board Secretary

Maria Costa opened the floor for nominations for the position of Board of Education President.

Paul Brislin moved, to nominate Charles Teufert seconded by Danielle Christmann for the position of Board of Education President.

Jennifer Caramucci moved to nominate Glen Plotsky seconded by Paul Brislin for the position of the Board of Education President.

Hearing no other nominations, Maria Costa entertained the motion to close nominations for Board President. Glen Plotsky moved, seconded by Charles Teufert.

Maria Costa conducted a roll call vote for the position of Board of Education President:

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Plotsky	Teufert	Underwood	Total
Teufert	X			X				2
Plotsky			X		X	X	X	4
ABSTAIN		X						1

Mr. Plotsky assumed the chair.

Mr. Plotsky entertained nominations for the position of First Vice-President.

Jennifer Caramucci moved to nominate Charles Teufert, seconded by Paul Brislin for the position of Vice President.

Paul Brislin moved to nominate Dale Bouma, seconded by Danielle Christmann for the position of Vice President.

Hearing no additional nominations, Mr. Plotsky requested a roll call vote (in the order nominations occurred) for the Board of Education Vice-President.

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Plotsky	Teufert	Underwood	Total
Teufert			X		X	X	X	4
Bouma	X	X		X				3
ABSTAIN								

Glen Plotsky requested the Board to block vote A1 – A23.

- Two amendments were made.
- A-19 Glen Plotsky entertained the motion to adopt Charles Teufert’s alternative suggestion that the Montague Township Board of Education names the NJ Herald be designated as the official newspaper and, the Sunday NJ Herald will be designated as the official alternate newspaper.
- Jennifer Caramucci asked Mr. Capone to explain the recommendation to switch papers.
- Mr. Capone responded that when we look at the accuracy or inaccuracy of the reporting of the NJ Herald, we continuously see that things are reported inaccurately or through ignorance. It is not reputable, articles printed do not represent facts. They are here-say at best, quoting someone that is not knowledgeable.
- Paul Brislin suggest, the Sunday NJ Herald as the second paper.
 - Charles Teufert moved, seconded by Paul Brislin.
 - Dale Bouma, Paul Brislin, Jennifer Caramucci, Danielle Christmann, Charles Teufert, and Billy Underwood voted Yes.
 - Glen Plotsky voted No.
- A-20 Glen Plotsky entertained the motion of changing the calendar dates to 2020 rather than 2019.
 - Jennifer Caramucci moved, seconded by Paul Brislin.
 - All in Favor.
- A1 – A23 are carried as amended.
 - All vote
 - All in favor.

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.

Motion to open Executive Session at 6:22pm

- Motion by Jennifer Caramucci, seconded by Charles Teufert
- All in Favor

Motion to close Executive Session at 9:15pm

- Motion by Jennifer Caramucci, seconded by Charles Teufert
- All in Favor

Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at 9:15pm

- Motion by Jennifer Caramucci, seconded by Dale Bouma
- All in Favor

A-24 **BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the following Montague Township School field trips.

Trip to VR World NY, NY 2 Hour Play	March 12, 2020	30 students/ adult @ \$29.25 Total with Tax: \$955.38	Booked
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- Motion by Paul Brislin, seconded by Charles Teufert
- All in Favor

CSA Report

- Strategic plan end of last year for this current school year.
- Priorities laid out for this year
 - Year 1- Tiles, Tractors
 - Year 3-5- Technology, phone services, internet speeds, panic button
 - Access points, switches, cables, hardware
 - CST Guidance/ Full Time Speech Therapist, Staff, Handle with Care
 - Years 3-5- refining process through areas
 - Years 3-5 next target areas. Stem program, Spanish, etc.

SBA Report, None

Correspondence, None

Approval of Minutes - December 17, 2019

- Motioned by Charles Teufert, Seconded by Jennifer Caramucci
- Paul Brislin Abstain
- All in Favor

XIII. 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 9:23pm

- Motion Jennifer Caramucci 2nd Charles Teufert
 - All in Favor
1. Anthony Mastroeni, President of Montague Little League requested approval for Winter Clinics.
 - January 20th beginning of April
 - Tuesday, Wednesday (optional) and Thursday
 - Future fundraising events.
 2. Kareann Herkaler-Artale- Thank you for accepting the children into the District.
 - Requesting transportation to be a later pick up time at her house.
 3. Jaime LeMelledo- September 23- received letter in the mail, says they are false.
 - Repeated disorderly conduct at the school and violating school safety protocols.

4. Mr. Mannion- The NJ Herald is a trusted source of news.
5. Caitlin Borrás- Students with IEPs pulled from classes. Special Education students are a distraction to other students, hard for teachers to do what they do. Criminal case against Capone is still here.
6. 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.
7. Nick Dalacio- Montague Bears and Highpoint Wild Cats- opposition to end Highpoint send/ receive agreement.
 - a. Congratulate the newly elected board members and thank all the board members for serving the community.
 - b. Google Port Jervis, NY and Montague, NJ.
 - c. Why is our superintendent in the press so much when good things are happening in the school?
 - d. Daughter attends High Point High School, she is an ambassador in High point from Montague.
 - e. This petition will weaken Montague's position within HP community overall.
8. Stephanie Guida-Teta- Thank you to the new board members and thank you for your time. Last meeting, Mr. Capone and I having productive conversation but feel I was misled in that conversation. Bring community back together. Statute doesn't exist. Concerned Montague didn't go to the District Choir.
9. Art Henn- Granddaughter graduation Port Jervis last year – top 10 in her class over 30K in scholarships- Tri state area- cross the bridge in PA, other end of town in NY- let's bring our kids back to Port Jervis.

Motion to close public comment at 10:05pm

- Motion Paul Brislin seconded by Charles Teufert
- All in Favor

Action Items

Block Vote: F-1 – F-6

- F1
 - Motion Charles Teufert seconded by Jennifer Caramucci
 - Paul Brislin, Jennifer Caramucci, Danielle Christmann, Glen Plotsky, Charles Teufert, Billy Underwood in favor.
 - Dale Bouma Abstain
- F2 – F6
 - Motion Charles Teufert seconded by Jennifer Caramucci
 - All In Favor

Unfinished Business None

New Business – Use of the Gym subject to insurance- Received the request yesterday, issue is that we have is night hours and opening to the building without staff – 6pm – 8pm have the building open and have access.

A25- Motion to allow Montague Little League to utilize the gym from 6:00 – 8:00pm, Tuesday or Thursday and Wednesday as needed subject to District staffing and approved volunteers.

- Motion Paul Brislin, seconded by Charles Teufert
- All in favor

Adjournment

- Motion Paul Brislin 2nd Charles Teufert
- All in Favor

Time of Adjournment: 10:14pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Maria Costa
Board Secretary