

**Montague Township Board of Education Meeting
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2020
6:00 pm**

I. Call to Order 6PM

II. Roll Call

	Present	Absent
Dale Bouma	X	
Paul Brislin	X	
Jennifer Caramucci	Arrived 6:21	
Danielle Christmann	X	
Glen Plotsky, President	X	
Charles Teufert, Vice President	X	
Billy Underwood	X	

Others Present:

Timothy Capone - Chief School Administrator

Aldijana Reckovic - 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 Times Herald Record.

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 Charles Teufert 2nd Paul Brislin

Voice vote: All in Favor

Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at 7:00pm

Motion Billy Underwood 2nd Charles Teufert

Voice vote: All in Favor

VIII. CSA Report

- Mr. Capone discussed the Grab and go program; the board had approved at the last meeting. Our percentage of participation was 29% overall, there was a 2/3 reduction in the free/reduced families that were able to participate. Overall number for the free/reduced meals was 7%. The families that are not free and reduced and picked up meals was 22%. There has been a lot of comments about this program from the community. Members in the community are spreading misinformation and advocating for federal fraud for the district and the parents. As per USDA guidance, only parents or guardians can pick food for students. This is not a mandatory program, there was no requirement to deliver. We did deliver, insuring our free and reduced students were getting their meals.

IX. SBA Report

- None

X. Correspondence

- Letter from Ms. Carol LaStarza former Interim supervisor of special education; addressed to Mr. Plotsky, Ms. Reckovic, and the board members. Mr. Plotsky summarizes the contents of the letter. Ms. LaStarza letter was written in response to statements, from Ms. Holstein and Ms. Bogle to the NJ Herald written by Mr. Obernauer, which highlights inaccuracy written in his article.

XI. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the minutes of October 26, 2020.

➤ **Discussion**

- Ms. Christmann questioned where did it state that the board voted to stop the delivery of food?

- Mr. Capone stated to look at the motion from Mr. Teufert doing a recall, it is to institute a grab and go breakfast and lunch program for all students.
- Ms. Christmann asked if we can do both programs.
- Mr. Capone stated grab and go is the description of the program, that determines how we are providing food.

Moved: Dale Bouma

Seconded: Paul Brislin

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

XII. 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 7:10pm

Motion Paul Brislin 2nd Dale Bouma Voice vote: All in Favor

Barbara Holstein 127 Hemlock Hill

Thrilled to have been elected to serve on this board in January. The district in which she is employed had provide meals, the identifications of people receiving the meals were never checked, meals were given to however much families wanted. Ms. Holstein stated the preschool grant was worked up prior to Mr. Capone's arrival by Mrs. Jeskey and Mrs. Marionn. Due intelligence is required by every board member.

Motion to close public comment at 7:14pm

Motion Dale Bouma 2nd Danielle Christmann Voice vote: All in Favor

Motioned to Block vote F1 – F4

Moved: Jennifer Caramucci

Seconded: Billy Underwood

F-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the purchase Preschool Playground supplies and it`s installation from Miracle Recreation Equip the amount of \$92,493.31.Presschool grant will be utilize for this purchasing and installation. Miracle Recreation Source contract ID #030117-LTS (Attachment).

➤ **Discussion**

- Mr. Brislin questioned why we are getting one quote as oppose to multiple quotes?
- Mr. Capone stated to Mr. Brislin you went out and did your own research on this, you did not have the right equipment that is why there were discrepancies in the numbers. This is thru the state bid thru the co-op, they are state contracts that is the answer. We have gone through this before as to what your responsibilities are. If you had questions on this or anything else, you should have reached out and we would have provided you with answers prior to the meetings.

Moved: Jennifer Caramucci

Seconded: Billy Underwood

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 October 27, 2020 thru November 9, 2020 - Bill List attached and listed below:

	Check Numbers	Amount
Regular Bill List	A: N1030-N1102	
	A:25874-A:25897	\$344,521.32
Food Services	N:1727	\$37.45

Moved: Jennifer Caramucci

Seconded: Billy Underwood

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

F-3 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve submission and acceptance of funds through the FY20 Securing Our Children’s Future: School Security Grant in the amount of \$20,000 upon approval of compliance with Alyssa’s Law requirements.

➤ **Discussion**

- Mr. Brislin asked if this is a resolution to hire an armed guard for Montague School?
- Mr. Capone replies no, this is for the blue lights that are required by law that have been completed and this is the grant to get us reimbursement.
- Mr. Brislin questioned if the hiring of an armed guard is on the agenda for tonight?
- Mr. Capone stated that it is not, but it was approved in the budget in the spring.

Moved: Jennifer Caramucci

Seconded: Billy Underwood

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 Annual Safety and Security Plan and submit the SOA to the county office .(Copy is available in the Superintendent’s Office for review)

Moved: Jennifer Caramucci

Seconded: Billy Underwood

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

Motioned to block vote P1 – P4

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: Jennifer Caramucci

P-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education retroactively approve leave of absence under The Families First Coronavirus Response Act for employee #M0000144 from October 28,2020 -November 9,2020 ,for the purpose of childcare. Pay will be reflected in accordance with FFCRA as 2/3 daily rate up to \$200.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: JenniferCaramucci

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

Mr. Plotsky is modifying P2 & P3 and making them A1 & A2

Block vote A1 & A2

Moved: Jennifer Caramucci 2nd: Dale Bouma

A-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the HIB self-assessment for 2019 – 2020 school year

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, that the Montague Board of Education approve a 2nd reading of School Policy 6171.2 (GIFTED AND TALENTED)

➤ **Discussion**

- Mr. Brislin stated he believes the board just modified this policy and asks why are we doing another modification?
- Mr. Capone stated to pass a policy, there must be two readings.

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

Addendum Items

P-3 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education transfer Juliet Myers, as a P-3 and special Education Teacher, at a prorated annual salary of \$57,751 for the remainder 2020-2021 school year.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: JenniferCaramucci

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 Board of Education approve James Ciccalese as a Full Time Bus Driver/Custodian at a rate of \$ 19.56 an hour for the remainder of the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: JenniferCaramucci

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

P-5 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve Gary Dennison as a Full Time Bus Driver/Custodian at a rate of \$ 19.19 an hour for the remainder of the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Moved: Charles Teufert

Seconded: JenniferCaramucci

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

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 7:27pm

Motion Paul Brislin 2nd Dale Bouma

Voice vote: All in Favor

- **No public comment**

Motion to close public comment at 7:28pm

Motion Charles Teufert 2nd Billy Underwood

Voice vote: All in Favor

XVI. Unfinished Business

- Mr. Brislin stated he emailed his policy to the board members on Sunday September 13, at 6:40pm and asked why it was not included in tonight's meeting agenda?
- Mr. Plotsky stated the reason his (Mr. Brislin) and Ms. Christmann's bylaws modification are not on the agenda this evening is because you were both requested to reforward the proposed items to Mr. Capone and Mr. Underwood. The proposed items were not forwarded and that is why neither are on the agenda tonight.
- Mr. Brislin and Ms. Christmann handed out photocopies their proposed items to the board members.
- Mr. Plotsky requested the bylaws modification from Ms. Christmann and Mr. Brislin be placed on the meeting's agenda at the recommendation of the bylaws committee.

XVII. New Business

- Mr. Capone stated he has received an email from Dr. Lamonte, which stated Montague School needs to get professional engineers to evaluate the HVAC and to give you and the board a written report as to whether the system is sufficiently operating so that it is safe for students and staff to be in the building.
- A Quote from a vendor has been given to the board, this is not a complete evaluation of the building just to give the board an idea what the cost will look like.
- Mr. Plotsky makes the board aware of what is being discussed is that the, County Board is telling us we cannot reopen until we have more information. It will cost us \$45,000 to obtain that information for the whole building spot checking.

- Mr. Teufert stated the building is safe, as the state must inspect it.

(1st Suggestion)

Mr. Brislin motioned to ask Edison energy to revise their proposal for an evaluation of the whole building and to obtain a second quote of the whole building.

Second: Billy Underwood

➤ **Discussion**

- Mr. Capone states the quote the board has, is under the threshold if you are going to do a 3/3 quote that is going to be over the threshold. So now you must go out to bid.
- Mr. Gumustekin stated to the board the threshold, and that we must get three more bids.

Mr. Brislin motioned to get at least three quotes for an HVAC ventilation & filtration study for unit ventilators to determine indoor air quality assessment for ventilation & COVID best practices

Second: Billy Underwood

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

Mr. Brislin stated he is making his motion based on the NJ Herald article.

Mr. Brislin motioned to start meetings at 6:30pm and to discontinue of refreshments during board meetings

Seconded: Dale Bouma

➤ **Discussion**

- Mr. Teufert suggested to change the start of the board meetings to 6:30pm
- Mr. Plotsky stated he takes offense to this gentleman having any action on this board. This same gentleman has never written anything supportive of this district.
- The board discusses bringing their own food.

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

**Mr. Brislin motioned to restore the Free breakfast and lunch food delivery
Seconded: Danielle Christmann**

➤ **Discussion**

- Ms. Christmann wanted more clarification as to when we voted for the grab and go, the free/reduced meal delivery would stop.
- Mr. Brislin wanted to include all the students to get free meals, does not want any student to get excluded for the grab and go program.
- Mr. Teufert stated no students are being excluded, just now we are not delivering.
- Mr. Capone states this is the error in making decisions in which you do not have a plan or proper staffing, and I addressed all of this at the last meeting. We only have one part time staff member for this. I agree it is a terrible decision not to deliver to families who are in need from the free and reduced students.
- Mr. Plotsky stated he cannot make an intelligent decision on this motion with out more information on what it would take to make both programs work effectively.
- Mr. Plotsky respectfully request more information on this motion from Mr. Capone for the next meeting.

Roll Call	Bouma	Brislin	Caramucci	Christmann	Underwood	Teufert	Plotsky	Total
YES	X	X		X				3
NO								
ABSTAIN			X		X	X	X	4
ABSENT								

XVIII. 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.

- **Executive Session was not necessary**

XIX. Adjournment Motion Paul Brislin

2nd Charles Teufert

Voice vote: All in Favor

Time of Adjournment: 8:33pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Aldijana Reckovic
Board Secretary