

**Montague Township Board of Education Meeting
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2021
6:30 pm**

I. Call to Order 6:30 pm

II. Roll Call

	Present	Absent
Denise Bogle, Vice President	X	
Dale Bouma	X	
Paul Brislin	X	
Danielle Christmann	X	
Barbara Holstein, President		X
Glen Plotsky	X	
Jennifer VanNess	X	

Others Present:

Timothy Capone - Chief School Administrator
Aldijana Reckovic - Board Secretary
Matthew Giacobbe - Board Attorney (via zoom)

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 6:36pm
Motion Paul Brislin 2nd Jennifer VanNess

- Mr. Capone stated, that resolution says to discuss personnel matters and legal issues. There are no personnel matters and I'm not aware of any legal issues either to be discussed.
 - Ms. Bogle responded we do have issues to discuss and stated the topic.

Roll Call	Bogle	Bouma	Brislin	Christmann	Holstein	Plotsky	VanNess	Total
YES	X	X	X	X				4
NO						X		1
ABSTAIN							X	1
ABSENT					X			1

Motion to close Executive Session at 7:13PM
 Motion Dale Bouma 2nd Glen Plotsky
 Voice vote: All in Favor

Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at 7:14pm
 Motion Dale Bouma 2nd Danielle Christmann
 Voice vote: All in Favor

VIII. CSA Report

- Mr. Capone stated all of the buses that were purchased have arrived at this time, all of our routes are now controlled by the district and are staffed by the district as well.
- Mr. Capone gave a Covid update in Montague, this has been the highest rates that we've seen during the time frame going back through March.
- We just received notice that there would be no state testing this spring. The state has indicated possibly this fall for testing to resume, we're waiting on further guidance from the state.
- Ms. Bogle asked if the recommendation from the SBA for an eighth grader to participate in their county wide dialogue, was able to?
 - Mr. Capone responded, we recommended someone and they did participate.

IX. SBA Report

- None

X. Correspondence

- Mr. Capone stated the correspondence from community members varied. In which one was certainly concerning to me when you have parents recommending to staff members that they resign, I think it's quite inappropriate and out of line. We have staff that has been going above and beyond as far as what they're required to do. A couple of emails were regarding Covid rates, I continue to direct people to the Covid Act now

and you can see that the dates that we've been closed, correspond directly with the infection rate. Mr. Fletcher's email was also addressed, regarding the security guard position that is posted and its appropriateness.

- Ms. Bogle reads the response from the Board Attorney in response to Mr. Fletcher's email: ultimately, the school security officer posting is legally compliant and the tasks that are listed are permissible, the concerns raised are addressed, and we do not conclude that the posting or the duties noted are improper under current authority.
- Mr. Capone stated the position for the security guard came up because, we had a number of incidents of parents behaving in a disorderly manner over the course of the year prior, and because we had to address that within the building of breaking security protocols. We've been posting that for roughly a year. Based on trying to be fiscally responsible, we haven't filled those positions, because we've been in and out of school based on going remote. This is something that was put forward based on the incidents that occurred in the school to make sure that students and staff were safe.

XI. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the minutes of March 22, 2021

Moved: Jennifer VanNess

Seconded: Danielle Christmann

Roll Call	Bogle	Bouma	Brislin	Christmann	Holstein	Plotsky	VanNess	Total
YES	X	X	X	X				4
NO								
ABSTAIN						X	X	2
ABSENT					X			1

Ms. VanNess motioned to table the Executive meeting minutes of March 22, 2021

2nd: Dale Bouma

Roll Call	Bogle	Bouma	Brislin	Christmann	Holstein	Plotsky	VanNess	Total
YES	X	X	X	X			X	5
NO								
ABSTAIN						X		1
ABSENT					X			1

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 7:26pm

Motion Glen Plotsky 2nd Jennifer VanNess

Voice vote: All in Favor

- Hearing no public comment

Motion to close public comment at 7:27pm

Motion Jennifer VanNess 2nd Danielle Christmann

Voice vote: All in Favor

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
NJDOE-Overview of the New Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations	Erkan Gumustekin	4/13/2021	Webinar	25
Legislative and School Official Update	Erkan Gumustekin	4/29/2021	Webinar	50
Preparing for the Audit, GASB84	Erkan Gumustekin	5/18/2021	Webinar	50
NJASBO -Conference	Erkan Gumustekin	6/09/2021-6/11/2021	Webinar	150

Moved: Dale Bouma

Seconded: Jennifer VanNess

Roll Call	Bogle	Bouma	Brislin	Christmann	Holstein	Plotsky	VanNess	Total
YES	X	X	X	X		X	X	6
NO								
ABSTAIN								

ABSENT					X			1
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F-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve March 23, 2021 thru April 12 ,2021 - Bill List attached and listed below:

Fund 10	\$66,066.00
Fund 11	\$130,497.87
Fund 20	\$1,416.30
Fund 60	\$8,556.00
Grand Total	\$206,536.17

Moved: Jennifer VanNess

Seconded: Glen Plotsky

Roll Call	Bogle	Bouma	Brislin	Christmann	Holstein	Plotsky	VanNess	Total
YES	X	X	X	X		X	X	6
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT					X			1

F-2 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the submission of Small Rural School Achievement (SRSA) grant application for Fiscal Year 2021 and acceptance of the grant award the amount of \$18,500.00.

Moved: Dale Bouma

Seconded: Jennifer VanNess

Roll Call	Bogle	Bouma	Brislin	Christmann	Holstein	Plotsky	VanNess	Total
YES	X	X	X	X		X	X	6
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT					X			1

F-3 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the submission of the 2021-2022 PEA (Preschool Education Aid) Application to the NJ Department of Education Division of Early Childhood Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board formally approves the application submission for the Preschool Operational Plan Update and Budget Workbook amount of \$728,352 based on per pupil cost.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the school administrations are hereby authorized to submit an electronic PEA application to the New Jersey Department of Education on behalf of the Montague Township School District.

Discussion

- Mr. Plotsky asked Mr. Capone, will this involve hiring any additional staff based on our current numbers or anticipated numbers?
 - Mr. Capone responded this is the grant this is not additional hires. This is maintaining the staff that we currently have.

Moved: Dale Bouma

Seconded: Jennifer VanNess

Roll Call	Bogle	Bouma	Brislin	Christmann	Holstein	Plotsky	VanNess	Total
YES	X	X	X	X		X	X	6
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT					X			1

XIII. Public Session

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Motion to open public comment at 7:33pm

Motion Glen Plotsky 2nd Jennifer VanNess

Voice vote : All in Favor

- Hearing no comment

Motion to close public comment at 7:34pm

Motion Jennifer VanNess 2nd Dale Bouma

Voice vote: All in Favor

XVI. Unfinished Business

- Ms. Bogle stated to Mr. Capone, we know that the architects were in do you have any updates from them?
 - Mr. Capone responded they're still in the process, we haven't received anything official.

XVII. New Business

- None

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 Glen Plotsky

2nd Jennifer VanNess

Voice vote: All in Favor

Time of Adjournment: 7:36pm

Respectful submitted,

Aldijana Reckovic
Board Secretary