

**Montague Township Board of Education Meeting
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2021
6:30 pm**

I. Call to Order 6:30pm

II. Roll Call

	Present	Absent
Denise Bogle, Vice President	remote	
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
- John Comegno - Board Attorney - remote

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.

Board takes a 10 minute recess at 6:34pm

Motioned: Paul Brislin 2nd : Dale Bouma

Voice vote: all in favor

Motion to reopen meeting at 6:46 pm

Dale Bouma

2nd Paul Brislin

Voice vote: all in favor

A-1 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve a 2nd reading of School Policy PUBLIC AND EXECUTIVE SESSIONS 9322

Discussion

- Mr. Romano gives a presentation on policy 9322 to the board, including his concerns and recommendations.
- The board members with Mr. Comengo have a detailed discussion on the logistics for policy 9322.

Moved: Dale Bouma

Seconded: Paul Brislin

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

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 7:24pm
 Motion Dale Bouma 2nd Danielle Christmann
 Voice vote: All in Favor

Motion to close Executive Session at 7:38pm
 Motion Dale Bouma 2nd Paul Brislin
 Voice vote : All in Favor

Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at 7:39pm
 Motion Dale Bouma 2nd Jennifer VanNess
 Voice vote: All in Favor

Motion to open Executive Session at 7:53 pm
 Motion Paul Brislin 2nd Danielle Christmann
 Voice vote: All in Favor

A-1 Rescinded

Moved: Paul Brislin

Seconded: Dale Bouma

Roll Call	Bogle	Bouma	Brislin	Christmann	Holstein	Plotsky	VanNess	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

A-1 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve a 2nd reading of School Policy PUBLIC AND EXECUTIVE SESSIONS 9322

Moved: Paul Brislin

Seconded: Dale Bouma

Roll Call	Bogle	Bouma	Brislin	Christmann	Holstein	Plotsky	VanNess	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

Motion to close Executive Session at 9:59pm
Motion Dale Bouma 2nd Paul Brislin
Voice vote : All in Favor

Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at 9:59
Motion Dale Bouma 2nd Jennifer VanNess
Voice vote: All in Favor

VIII. CSA Report

- Mr. Capone stated we received the evaluation report from Edison Energy today, and from a facility standpoint and reviewing what their recommendations are, we need to make a decision as far as where the board wants to go. The plan that was presented in the Fall was focused on improving the filtration system, the air conditioning and safety. Those three things that we had discussed and just to recap, the decision was made that you would go back and do an evaluation of part of the building.
- The all-call system was used to announce the school closure, remote, and clean up due to the weather last week.
- The approval of the audit is on the agenda again tonight. The deadline was February 5. I would encourage you to pass it. (Currently out of compliance)
- Mr. Capone stated that there had been a question brought up at the last meeting in reference to the SEMI grant. Our revenue projections from the state is that it would be \$14,000 the budgeted reimbursement revenue would be \$12,600. Previously, a full time position was responsible for SEMI. Not cost efficient.

IX. SBA Report

- None

X. Correspondence

- Ms. Holstein thanked Mr. Comegno and his law firm for the holiday card received.
- Ms. Reckovic stated the Board has received emails that are included in the board packet tonight.
- Mr. Capone addressed all the emails that were received from the parents, every student that would like to be in school, we have allowed in school, everyone that's contacted us

has been able to enroll the child, as long as they've met the criteria, and notifying us that's what they wish to start.

- Ms. Holstein stated I would like to note that the emails were redirected to Mr. Capone because Mr. Capone is the person who's going to handle comments from parents, and or staff or anybody else who's going to reach out to the board email.

XI. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the minutes of January 8, 2021 and January 25, 2021.

Moved: Dale Bouma

Seconded: Jennifer VanNess

Roll Call	Bogle	Bouma	Brislin	Christmann	Holstein	Plotsky	VanNess	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

- **Approval of January 25, 2021 meeting minutes**

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						X		1
ABSENT								

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 10:15pm

Motion Glen Plotsky 2nd Dale Bouma

Voice vote: All in Favor

- **Todd Eastridge 273 Old Chimney Ridge Rd:** concerned with the current school hours, would like to bring back the old school hours by next year.

Motion to close public comment at 10:18pm

Motion Paul Brislin 2nd Dale Bouma

Voice vote: All in Favor

F-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve January 26 ,2021 thru February 8 ,2021 - Bill List attached and listed below:

Fund 11	\$28,549.75
Fund 20	\$600.30
Fund 90	\$94,038.34
Grand Total	\$123,188.39

Moved: Dale Bouma

Seconded: Glen Plotsky

Roll Call	Bogle	Bouma	Brislin	Christmann	Holstein	Plotsky	VanNess	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 accept annual audit for the year ended 2019/2020. The audit report is included in section 2, the financial section, of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, and that the attached corrective action plan be implemented. (Attachment)

Discussion

- Ms. Holstein stated I have three questions, 1. My specific question is estimated cost versus actual costs were not aligned for the adjustments made? 2. Why is it that we have a lag in the reconciliation with these accounts? 3. Regarding the reserve for encumbrances my concern here is that the management's responses notice here is that the district will

take greater care with classifying and open purchase orders as accounts payable or encumbrance what exactly does that mean?

- Mr. Capone responded tuition changes throughout the year, based on the number of students who go to different schools. The budget based on what we anticipate it's going to be and then based on those changes, it's the reason that we have money in the reserve account for tuition to cover the cost difference between what's anticipated.
- Mr. Gumustekin stated tuition has been normally the estimate and then after two years, the school itself, can give us the prorated number again, its standard fluctuation.
- Mr. Capone stated we pay tuition for our high school students. We pay tuition for special education students, those numbers can be adjusted up until two years after.
- Mr. Gumustekin responded to question 2: there was checks standing back in 2013 in the account and back then the Treasury could not hold those checks and deposits. The checks are cleared now. For question 3- normally, when we close the books, there's a vendor that we purchased goods and services, you have to transfer to next year's account payable or at conferences. If you receive your goods in June 30 the prior year, that has to be account payable, if you don't receive your goods, and conferences.

Moved: Paul Brislin

Seconded: Dale Bouma

Roll Call	Bogle	Bouma	Brislin	Christmann	Holstein	Plotsky	VanNess	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 approves 2020- 2021 Request for Re- Quotation for student transportation Contracts per for diem rate with First Student. Total cost is not going to exceed bid threshold for each contract \$19,600.

TC1-\$395.00

TC2-\$395.00

Moved: Dale Bouma

Seconded: Glen Plotsky

Roll Call	Bogle	Bouma	Brislin	Christmann	Holstein	Plotsky	VanNess	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 Board of Education approve the retirement of Nancy Wright effective April 1, 2021.

Discussion

- Ms. Holstein stated she has been an excellent educator. In my experience my child was always excited about going to Phys ed, it was a disappointment to her and to the rest of the school if we didn't have proper shoes.
- Ms. Christmann stated she will be missed.

Moved: Dale Bouma

Seconded: Danielle Christmann

Roll Call	Bogle	Bouma	Brislin	Christmann	Holstein	Plotsky	VanNess	Total
YES	X	X		X		X	X	5
NO			X		X			2
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

XIII. 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.

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Motion to open public comment at 10:37pm

Motion Glen Plotsky 2nd Paul Brislin

Voice vote : All in Favor

- No public comments were made.

Motion to close public comment at 10:38pm

Motion Dale Bouma 2nd Danielle Christmann

Voice vote: All in Favor

XVI. Unfinished Business

- Ms. Holstein stated that we have received some information this evening, which we will be making announcement regarding the possible changes that we're facing with the upcoming April 2021 election.
- Mr. Comegno responded an issue was raised with regard to the effects on length of board members terms by the board's vote at the last meeting to move elections from November to April.
- Ms. Christmann asked if there would be any discussion for the report that was received from Edison Energy tonight.
- Mr. Capone responded you should be having committee meetings where we then have those discussions, typically then the chair comes forward at the meeting and shares that information with the rest of the board and the public. Who are the chairs for all the other committees? With the move to committees, there's conversations and there's work to be done.

XVII. New Business

- Ms. Holstein stated this is possibly for the finance committee, for the board to explore the idea of advertising on our district buses. I was actually looking through the audit report, there's a line item for monies that are for school district earnings, many school districts have signage on their buses. This is something that we could look into going down the road and would have to get much more information on it. But we will look at financing coming in have to look into the legal aspects of that and see what guidance from the New Jersey school boards.
- Mr. Plotsky stated when he was board president, he received concerns from the public when executive session went on longer than anticipated, so at the public's request someone would come out of executive session to make the public aware of an approximate time the board would resume the regular meeting.

Mr. Brislin motioned that if executive session is to go beyond 7:30pm, the board president or designee will give an indication to the public an approximate time the board will come out of executive session.

2nd Glen Plotsky

Roll Call	Bogle	Bouma	Brislin	Christmann	Holstein	Plotsky	VanNess	Total
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
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 Glen Plotsky

2nd Dale Bouma

Voice vote: All in Favor

Time of Adjournment: 10:59pm

Respectfully submitted,

Aldijana Reckovic
Board Secretary