

**Montague Township Board of Education Meeting
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2021
6:30 pm**

I. Call to Order 6:30pm

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
- Jeffrey Caccese - Board Attorney

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 6:31
 Motion Denise Bogle 2nd Dale Bouma
 Voice vote: All in Favor

Motion to close Executive Session at 7:25pm
 Motion 2nd Dale Bouma
 Voice vote All in Favor

Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at 7:30pm
Motion Denise Bogle 2nd Dale Bouma
Voice vote: All in Favor

Ms. Holstein stated to Mr. Capone and the public, that during the executive session Mr. Capone you said you emailed me, and I want to acknowledge to the public my district email is not set up yet because I had difficulty operating Goggle. I would like to continue to recommend that the CSA report be detailed on the agendas moving forward.
2nd: Paul Brislin

➤ **Discussion**

- Mr. Bouma stated we need to motion to reopen the meeting.
- Ms. Holstein went ahead to motion to reopen regular meeting.
- Mr. Capone stated this is amending the agenda for a specific vote, prior to public comment and I also believe this would fall under policy.
- Mr. Caccese recommend moving this motion to new business.
- Ms. Holstein stated she will move it to new business.

VIII. CSA Report

- Kathy Helewa, New Jersey School Boards Field Service Representative, held a training on School Board Ethics.
- Mr. Capone stated that there was a question raised about A22 at the last meeting, which was the BA should be listed to authorize entering into agreements through the New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Program, that was done on a fiscal year, so it had been include in the prior year, so that is why it was not include in the last meeting's agenda.
- The RFP that was requested for the food services, State agency approval is needed before advising it for 20 days. It is not permissible for us to bring an RFP to this meeting based on what the time frames were.
- Ms. Holstein stated the motion was to put out the advertisement just for an RFP for food services, and that there was no discussion to have it back for this meeting. - Mr. Capone stated the board did have the discussion at the last meeting, to have it by this meeting.
- Mr. Caccese stated there is 20-day notification period, also putting together an RFP takes some time with Legal consultation and from the business office.
- Mr. Capone stated we posed the RFP for school board attorneys to meet the requirements for this meeting. Nothing came back for it. Ms. Holstein asked where did you post it? Mr. Capone responded on the school website. Ms. Holstein responded why didn't you post it to the newspaper? Mr. Capone responded there was two workdays, to have it out and have it back for this meeting.
- Ms. Bogle stated there was no agenda items tonight because it was ignored it wasn't done by Mr. Capone and Ms. Reckovic. -Ms. Holstein stated she emailed Mr. Capone and Ms. Reckovic.

- Mr. Capone and Ms. Reckovic both stated they did not receive any emails for any agenda items to be on the agenda for tonight. Mr. Capone stated right now what your doing is a violation of board Ethics in having a public discussion.

-Ms. Holstein responded, Ms. Helewa just said the board needs to discuss items in public.

-Mr. Capone stated you have made multiple criticism and is an ongoing problem here.

-Ms. Bogle stated I didn't make any criticism, I brought up a fact.

- Mr. Capone responded to a public comment that was made at the last meeting, that I made promises to the prior board to get us back to Port. That is a bold face lie, the only thing I have talked about since I been here, is making sure children have is a **choice**. Making sure we have the most options of schools, the most options of programs for children.

IX. SBA Report

- None

X. Correspondence

- None

XI. 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 9:23pm

Motion Dale Bouma 2nd Danielle Christmann

Voice vote: All in Favor

- **Stephanie Guida 105 Autumn Dr:**
Comments on food services, and most complaints have been on Facebook. What is the current plan for reopening school? there needs to be a reopening plan. This school cannot go the whole year without opening.
- **Krista Mikulski 2 Elm Court:**
I feel confident that this board under Barbara's leadership will develop and execute a long-term plan that will ensure partnership with High Point and end potential ties with Port Jervis.
- **Lori English New Rd:**
Not satisfied with the lunches at the school. This is the only school in New Jersey that didn't open. Every other school came back expect this school.
- **Andree Cambell 111 Armstrong Rd:**
People are afraid to complain about the food, change your attitude.
- **Stephanie Guida 105 Autumn Dr:**
Asked how do we get a copy of the policy control and communication?
- Ms. Reckovic responded it's on the school website.

Motion to close public comment at 9:35pm

Motion Barbara Holstein 2nd Denise Bogle

Voice vote: All in Favor

XIII. Unfinished Business

Ms. Holstein motioned to move agenda items unfinished business and new business to take place before public session. 2nd: Paul Brislin

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

(1st suggestion)

Ms. Holstein motioned to appoint appointments of delegates to Sussex County School Boards Association. 2ND Paul Brislin.

Discussion:

- Mr. Caccese stated these are typically nominations, if you appoint someone, they may not want to do it.
- Paul Brislin nominates Barbara Holstein for delegate.
2ND Dale Boma.

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

Ms. Holstein motioned to appointment alternate to Sussex County School Boards Association

2nd: Denise Bogle

Discussion:

- Paul Brislin nominates alternate Denise Bogle. 2nd Dale Bouma
- Mr. Caccese stated before voting to ask if there are any other nominations.

Hearing no other nominations.

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

XIV. New Business

(1st Suggestion)

Ms. Holstein motioned that Montague School Board to be a standing Committee.

2nd: Paul Brislin

Discussion:

- Mr. Capone stated that the reason the board was a whole, in the past the board was doing both and having two meetings a month and committee meetings. The point to have a board of the whole was for transparency so every board member had the same information at the same time.
- Ms. Holstein stated when she was on the board, there was a standing committee.

Ms. Holstein motioned that the Montague School Board move to standing committees and dissolve the current board as a whole.

2nd: Paul Brislin

- Mr. Bouma asked if we can try this out and if it's not working, we can always go back to a board of the whole?
- Mr. Caccese responded yes.

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

Standing Committees

Finance & Insurance : Dale Bouma, Paul Brislin
 Personnel : Jennifer VanNess, Danielle Christmann
 Building & Grounds : Dale Bouma, Paul Brislin
 Transportation : Dale Bouma, Glen Plotsky
 Policy & Public relations : Denise Bogle, Paul Brislin
 Curriculum & CST : Denise Bogle, Danielle Christmann

Ms. Holstein motioned to direct the Board Secretary to provide, for the next meeting on January 25th the following: School Performance Report Card, Federal Impact aid report, Critical Reference manual, Contracts for CSA, BA, and Board Secretary
2nd: Denise Bogle
Voice vote: All in favor

(1st Suggestion)

Mr. Brislin motioned to request from the CSA to email each board member all related paperwork from Kieffer Electric within 48 hours.
2nd: Barbara Holstein

Discussion:

- Ms. Holstein recommend having it prepared and submitted with the agenda for the next meeting.
- Mr. Capone stated we have the invoice, and you may make that request to the board secretary.
- Mr. Brislin stated it is my understanding that you direct school personnel to carry out the request of the board.
- Mr. Capone responded the board secretary works directly with the BOE.

Mr. Brislin motioned to request from the Board Secretary to email each board member all related paperwork from Kieffer Electric resulting from the power outage that occurred on Monday January 4 for the next meeting.
2nd: Denise Bogle
Voice vote: all in favor

Mr. Brislin motioned to request from the Board Secretary to provide the history of Electric issues for the next meeting.
2nd: Barbara Holstein.
Voice vote: all in favor

- Mrs. Christmann stated no one at this table should be writing about each other on social media, its completely inappropriate.
- Ms. Holstein responded she agreed and will be looking to get a policy in place regrading social media use.
- Ms. Bogle stated we shouldn't have phones on the table, and I would like every meeting to be recorded so the secretary has access to it.
- Mr. Romano responded the meetings are saved and posted on the school website.
- The board had a discussion regarding virtual meetings, and potentially amending the current policy that is in place.

XII. Public Session

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Motion to open public comment at 10:18pm

Motion Denise Bogle 2nd Paul Brislin

Voice vote: All in Favor

- **Stephanie Guida 105 Autumn Dr:**
Regarding the new policy control and communication, looks like almost any communication is permitted.
- Mr. Capone responded that it does read time sensitive, and not for informational items. All of the informational items are excluded.

Motion to close public comment at 10:24pm

Motion Dale Bouma 2nd Danielle Christmann

Voice vote: All in Favor

XV. Executive Session if necessary:

- Not necessary

XVI. Adjournment Motion

Paul Brislin 2nd: Danielle Christmann

Voice vote: All in Favor

Time of Adjournment: 10:25pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Aldijana Reckovic

Board Secretary