

**Montague Township Board of Education Meeting  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 25, 2021  
6:30 pm**

**I. Call to Order** at 6:30

**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	Phoned in at 8:02pm	
Jennifer VanNess	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 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 6:31pm  
Motion Denise Bogle 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Brislin  
Voice vote: All in Favor

Motion to close Executive Session at 7:44  
Motion Denis Bogle 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Brislin  
Voice vote: All in Favor

Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at 7:45pm  
 Motion Dale Bouma 2<sup>nd</sup> Danielle Christmann  
 Voice vote: All in Favor

**VIII. CSA Report**

- Mr. Capone stated on January 11th and January 12th Edison Energy conducted their evaluation of the HVAC system. We are currently awaiting the report from them.
- Mr. Capone stated the COVID increases in Montague.

**IX. SBA Report**

Audit Report

**X. Correspondence**

- None

**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 13, 2021.

**Discussion**

- Ms. Holstein would like to amend the minutes from the January 8, 2021 meeting.
- Mr. Capone responded are you interested in confirming accuracy? That’s why you’re looking to table it? Because she can go back and pull the quotation.
- Ms. Holstein stated that would be fine.

**Dale Bouma motioned to table the January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes and approved the January 13, 2021 meeting minutes.**

**Moved: Dale Bouma**

**Seconded: Danielle Christmann**

<b>Roll Call</b>	Bogle	Bouma	Brislin	Christmann	Holstein	Plotsky	VanNess	<b>Total</b>
<b>YES</b>	X	X	X	X	X		X	6
<b>NO</b>								
<b>ABSTAIN</b>								
<b>ABSENT</b>								

- Mr. Plotsky joins the meeting by phone.

**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 8:04pm**

Motion Dale Bouma 2<sup>nd</sup> Denise Bogle

Voice vote: All in Favor

- No public comments were made.

**Motion to close public comment at 8:05pm**

Motion Denise Bogle 2<sup>nd</sup> Dale Bouma

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:

<b>Workshop</b>	<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Excel Series 6 sessions	Melinda Bellis	1/14/2021- 06/10/2021	Webinar	150
Budget Guidelines and Software Review	Erkan Gumustekin	2/2/2021	Webinar	50
Understanding School Ethics NJSA 18A:12	Erkan Gumustekin Aldijana Reckovic	2/23/2021	Webinar	50
Purchasing Update and Best Practices & NJSTART State Contract Purchasing	Erkan Gumustekin Melinda Bellis	3/16/2021	Webinar	100

**Moved: Dale Bouma**

**Seconded: Paul Brislin**

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

**A-2 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve a Special Education Initiative FY 2022 (SEMI) participation waiver.

**Discussion**

- Ms. Holstein asked Mr. Capone to explain the special education initiative waiver.
- Mr. Capone stated there is a reimbursement that occurs if you collect information about the number of services in which the time frame occurs over the course of the year. Reimbursement is only viable if you have a large number of students. The amount of information you have to collect is intensive, even large districts tend not to want to participate. Because of the small numbers, you're able to opt out if you have the numbers of less than 40 students.
- Ms. Holstein stated I'd like to have more information, such as how much the reimbursement would be how many man hours would be required to obtain the reimbursement.
- Mr. Capone responded I would recommend that if this is going to be something you want to pursue in the future, what you should do, is bring this to the committee and we can have it looked at for next year, if that's something you want.

**Moved: Dale Bouma**

**Seconded: Denise Bogle**

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

**A-3 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials.

**Moved: Dale Bouma**

**Seconded: Danielle Christmann**

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

<b>ABSTAIN</b>								
<b>ABSENT</b>								

**A-4 BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Montague Board of Education approve a 1<sup>st</sup> reading of School Policy PUBLIC AND EXECUTIVE SESSIONS 9322

**Discussion**

- Mr. Capone stated that between now and the second reading, we need to have a conversation about this revised policy. There's three different things if you're talking about a hybrid, and the hybrid has something that we need to make sure that there's something logistically to be able to make that run.
- Ms. Holstein read the policy.

**Moved: Paul Brislin**

**Seconded: Dale Bouma**

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

**Ms. Holstein motioned to take a recess at 8:20pm (technical issues)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Dale Bouma Voice vote : all in favor**

**Ms. Holstein motioned to reopen meeting.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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 December 29, 2020 thru January 25, 2021 - Bill List attached and listed below:

Fund 10	\$215,013.90
Fund 11	\$516,835.57
Fund 12	\$111,904.75
Fund 20	\$89,182.26
Fund 60	\$15,962.25
Fund 90	\$210,112.71
Grand Total	\$1,159,011.44

**Moved: Paul Brislin**

**Seconded: Dale Bouma**

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

**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**

**Paul Brislin motioned to table for next meeting.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Denise Bogle**

- Mr. Brislin stated he is seeing this audit report for the first time tonight.
- Mr. Plotsky responded he received the report with attachments in the board packet on 1.23.21, Mr. Brislin might not have looked at it until tonight, but we received the information in a timely fashion.

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

**F-3 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the Board Secretary’s Report (A-148) for the month of December 2020.

**Moved: Dale Bouma**

**Seconded: Denise Bogle**

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

**F-4 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the Treasurer of School Monies Report (A-149) for the month of December 2020.

**Moved: Dale Bouma**

**Seconded: Denise Bogle**

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

**F-5 BE IT RESOLVED**, that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-2.11(c) 3, the Board of Education certify that as of December 31,2020, after review of the Secretary’s monthly financial reports for December 31, 2020 (appropriations section), and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, Montague BOE is in compliance with N.J.A.C 6A:23-2.11 (c) 4 and shall certify in the minutes of the Board each month that no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16:10(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

**Moved: Dale Bouma**

**Seconded: Danielle Christmann**

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

**F-6 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the attached list of line-item transfers effective December 31,2020.

**Moved: Dale Bouma**

**Seconded: Denise Bogle**

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

**F-7 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the submission of Federal Impact grant application for Fiscal Year 2022 and acceptance of the grant award.

**Discussion**

- Mr. Capone stated federal impact aid has been utilized to supplement the budget. This number is set to assist in the services provided to our students, on a yearly basis paid out twice a year. This is

monies as a Federal Grant although not guaranteed it has been consistent.

- Ms. Holstein stated this is to offset the amount of land in Montague that's under federal ownership. So it helps the taxpayers.

**Moved: Dale Bouma**

**Seconded: Denise Bogle**

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

**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**

**Paul Brislin Motioned to table for next meeting.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Denise Bogle**

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

**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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**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 8:49**

Motion Denise Bogle 2<sup>nd</sup> Dale Bouma

Voice vote: All in Favor

- **Krista Mikulski 2 Elm Court:**  
Would like information on a late bus for her daughter that attends High Point.
- **Elean Murphy 15 Plaza drive Newton N.J**  
Suggested that the Finance Committee look into A-2, so they are prepared for next year.
- **Andree Cambell 111Armstrong Rd:**  
Why is it ok for a board members to call in, the past we had another board member that was not allowed to call in.  
  
-Ms. Holstein responded it is in policy 9322 that board members may participate with approval of the board president.  
  
-Mr. Capone stated it was done previously as well.

**Motion to close public comment at 8:53pm**

Motion Denise Bogle 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Brislin

Voice vote: All in Favor

**XVI. Unfinished Business**

- Ms. Holstein updated the board on the RFP for Legal services; you now have a copy of the advertisement that was run in the Sunday New Jersey Herald.
- Ms. Holstein asked Mr. Capone to repeat the HVAC update for Mr. Plotsky, that you did in your CSA report.
- Mr. Capone stated on January 11th and January 12th Edison Energy conducted their evaluation of the HVAC system. We are currently awaiting the report from them.
- Ms. Bogle asked if Mr. Capone can repeat the COVID update he gave in his CSA report for Mr. Plotsky.
- Mr. Capone again stated the increase in COVID that are in Montague Township.
- Ms. Holstein set the committees to meet for February 8 before the BOE meeting starting at 5:45pm Buildings and grounds; 6:00pm -Finance and insurance; 6:15pm- Curriculum and CST. -The next committee meetings will take place on February 22 before the regular BOE meeting.
- Mr. Capone stated he is concerned that 15 minutes is not nearly enough time to convene a new committee for people to get the information they need to have and review it.
- The Board and Mr. Capone had a detailed discussion on the committees and what they would like to do going forward.

Ms. Holstein read the following:

**MONTAGUE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION  
Moving the Election of Members of the Montague Township Board of Education from the first Tuesday in November to the third Tuesday in April.**

**WHEREAS**, the election for members of the Montague Township Board of Education was held on the same date as the General Election for more than 4 (four) years; and

**WHEREAS**, P.L. 2011, c. 202 and N.J.S.A. 19:60-1.1 provides that a board of education may move the election date of school board members from the first Tuesday in November to the third Tuesday in April through the adoption of a resolution at a duly advertised and convened public meeting, and by providing appropriate notice of any such resolution to the County Clerk not less than eighty-five (85) days before the third Tuesday in April to take effect for that year's election; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 19:60-1.1 requires that a change in the election date of school board members from the first Tuesday in November to the third Tuesday in April shall remain in effect for at least an additional 4 (four) years;

**WHEREAS**, the Montague Township Board of Education believes that the students, parents/guardians and constituents of the District are better served by changing the election date for the members of the Montague Township Board of Education to be held on the third Tuesday in April as opposed to on the first Tuesday of November;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that pursuant to P.L. 2011, c. 202 and N.J.S.A. 19:60-1.1, the Montague Township Board of Education changes the annual election date for its school board members from the first Tuesday in November to the third Tuesday in April beginning in April 2021 and that such change shall remain in place for at least an additional 4 (four) years; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that pursuant to P.L. 2011, c. 202 and N.J.S.A. 18A:13-12, the annual organization meeting of the Montague Township Board of Education appropriately take place following the April election; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that pursuant to P.L. 2011, c. 202, members of the Montague Township Board of Education whose terms would have expired in December 2021 will serve in office only until the organization meeting to be held after the April 2021 election; and

**BE IT FURTHER**, that the Board Secretary of the Montague Township Board of Education is authorized to immediately transmit and provide a certified copy of this Resolution to the following officials and governing bodies:

- The Municipal Clerks of Montague Township;
- The Sussex County Clerk;
- The Sussex County Board of Elections;
- The Sussex County Superintendent of Elections;
- The Executive Superintendent of Sussex County;

**Discussion**

- Mr. Plotsky stated when does the term for somebody whose term would have ended December 31, 2020? does that get extended to April of 2023? Or does that end in April of 2022?
- Ms. Holstein called board attorney Mr. Comegno, so Mr. Plotsky can get an answer to his question.
- Mr. Comegno stated my immediate reaction to that is that their terms would follow the same process as those abbreviated terms of members whose terms are going to expire now in April as opposed to December, but I'm happy to confirm that.

- Mr. Capone stated the funding formula is not the same as in 2012, if you lost 50 kids in 2012 you still received the same amount in funding. The largest two aid cuts were this year and last year. Contrary to a public statement that was made, we **didn't** raise taxes 14%. It would be more responsible for this to be voted on next year when there are fewer variables.

**Moved: Paul Brislin**

**Seconded: Denise Bogle**

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

**XVII. New Business**

**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 Denise Bogle**

**Voice vote: All in Favor**

Time of Adjournment: 9:35pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Aldijana Reckovic  
Board Secretary