## Montague Township Board of Education Meeting Regular Meeting Minutes September 13, 2021 - 6:30 p.m.

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER BY BARBARA HOLSTEIN at 6:30 p.m.

## 2. ROLL CALL

NOLL OALL	1	i e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e
	Present	Absent
Barbara Holstein, President	Х	
Denise Bogle, Vice President	Х	
Dale Bouma	X	
Paul Brislin	X	
Danielle Christmann	X	
Krista Mikulski	X Remote	
Glen Plotsky	X	

Others Present:	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
John Nittolo - Acting CSA	Χ	
Carolyn Joseph – Interim SBA/BS	Χ	
Joseph Garcia – Board Attorney	X _	

#### 3. FLAG SALUTE

- 4. MISSION STATEMENT The mission of the Montague Township School District is to provide the best educational experience and opportunities to realize the potential of every child.
- 5. LEGAL NOTICE 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.

#### 6. ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

**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 6:32 p.m.

Motion: Dale Bouma 2<sup>nd</sup> Denise Bogle Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to close Executive Session at 7:21 p.m.

Motion: Glen Plotsky 2<sup>nd</sup> Danielle Christmann Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Motion: Glen Plotsky 2<sup>nd</sup> Danielle Christimann Voice Vote: All in Favor

### 7. CSA REPORT - John Nittolo, Acting Superintendent

School beginning - Great opening - Classes look inviting, children seem excited, new hires are doing great and working closely with Mentors. Building has been painted. Back to School night is Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021 (6pm-8pm). Danielle Conklin graduated from Route Finder University - 6 months, once a week even through Covid. Principal Waiver request must be on the agenda because Mr. Nittolo splits his role as Principal/CSA. LabQ approval - covid testing for staff and students, if necessary. Traffic study being proposed. Montague Weekend Bag program facilitated by Darah Pinzone (food and hygiene also special needs like coats, etc.). ARC paid for staff. Radio bus communication and GPS being installed on all busses.

8. SBA REPORT - Roof will be repaired probably within the next couple of weeks or months. It will not be done during school hours. Also, replaced some floor tiles in the building and have new drinking fountains. Moving forward with HVAC. Meeting with architects. Project will take place in summer 2022. Working with auditors for the 2020-21 school audit. Reviewing all the grants. Also reviewing our 2021-22 school budget to see where we stand with the original budget and actually where we need to be now.

### 9. BOARD OF THE WHOLE COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS

Barbara Holstein reached out to Kathy Helewa, NJ School Board Rep who is present at the meeting and will be speaking about being a Board of the Whole and giving comparisons as to what will be different as a Board of the Whole versus a Standing Committee.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE** - An email from Charles and Kimberly Fletcher complementing the school grounds was read.

### 11. 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.

The board uses the public comment 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.

Motion to open public comment at 8:12 p.m.

Motion: Dale Bouma 2<sup>™</sup> Glen Plotsky Voice Vote: All in Favor

- 1. Savita from Hardyston Concerns with wearing masks. Teachers must be available to read students' facial expressions. Real resolution of years ago. Rights have been taken away by the governor. Exec. Order 251
- 2. Andrea Campbell Agrees with Mr. Savita. Wearing masks can't see our facial expressions. Irreputable damage to children.

Motion to close public comment at 8:19 p.m.

Motion: Glen Plotsky 2<sup>™</sup> Dale Bouma Voice Vote: All in Favor

#### 12. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

**A-1 BE IT RESOLVED**,at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the Uniform State Memorandum Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials for the 2021-2022 school year.

Moved: Dale Bouma Seconded: Danielle Christmann

Discussion: Barbara Holstein reviewed Agreement. Had questions regarding what can and cannot take place in school. John Nittolo said it details the school district and Law

Enforcement what is mandated to report. Same since 2019.

Roll Call	Bogle	Bouma	Brislin	Christmann	Mikulski	Plotsky	Holstein	Total
YES	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

**A-2 BE IT RESOLVED**,at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education requests a Waiver for a Full Time, Non Teaching, Principal for the 2021-2022 school year.

Moved: Dale Bouma Seconded: Paul Brislin Discussion: None

Roll Call	Bogle	Bouma	Brislin	Christmann	Mikulski	Plotsky	Holstein	Total
YES	Х	Х	Х	х	Х	Х	Х	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

**A-3 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve LabQ, Budd Lake, NJ, to provide COVID19 Test services, at no charge to the district, for the 2021-2022 school year.

Moved: Dale Bouma Seconded: Paul Brislin

Discussion: Paul Brislin asked who is paying for this? John Nittolo said no bill to school. No cost to staff. It will go through insurance first. If not covered then it will be covered by funds from CARES ACT. Barbara Holstein asked "Who are these tests for?" John Nittolo answered" for any staff member not vaccinated. School nurse to do. 2 types of testing. Results in 18-24 hr." Barbara Holstein status on adding students?" John Nittolo said "any student who shows signs and/or symptoms and parent signed waiver we can test the child. We cannot randomly test a child without consent". Joe Garcia, Esq., said, "I don't see a liability risk." Krista Mikulski asked "what other testing, prior to COVID, did the nurse test for?" Dale Bouma asked if there's a fee to the parents? John Nittolo stated that it goes through parent insurance and then through CARES ACT.

Roll Call	Bogle	Bouma	Brislin	Christmann	Mikulski	Plotsky	Holstein	Total
YES	Х	Х		х		X		4
NO			Х		Х		Х	3
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

**A-4 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education accept the determination of the New Jersey Department of School Facilities for the HVAC school project stating this is not educational and does not require submission of final plans and specifications. Therefore, this project may move ahead.

Moved: Da	ved: Dale Bouma			onded: Glen	Plotsky	Discussion: None			
Roll Call	Bogle	Bouma	Brislin	Christmann	Mikulski	Plotsky	Holstein	Total	
YES	Х	Х	Χ	X	X	Χ	Х	7	
NO									
ABSTAIN									
ABSENT									

### 13. PERSONNEL

**P-1 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the following employees, pending background check (if needed) for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Kristen Fazzio – Para, Step C, \$27,000

Substitute Teachers @ \$95 per day:

Aliena Hull, Andrea Conklin, Aileen Donovan, Danielle Conklin, Ryan Polito, Alexandria Agalopoulos

Employee #252113011 – Moved to MA, Step A, \$63,000

Employee #14801301 – To be placed on FMLA Leave of Absence, effective 9/7/21 through 12/1/21

Moved: Glen Plotsky Seconded: Denise Bogle **Discussion: None** Roll Call Bogle Bouma Brislin Christmann Mikulski **Plotsky** Holstein Total YES Χ Χ Χ Χ Χ Χ Χ 7 NO **ABSTAIN** ABSENT

**P-2 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve Darrell Stewart, Facilities Manager, as the District's Integrated Pest Control Manager for the 2021-22 school year.

Moved: Denise Bogle Seconded: Danielle Christmann Discussion: None

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Roll Call	Bogle	Bouma	Brislin	Christmann	Mikulski	Plotsky	Holstein	Total
YES	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

#### 14. FIANCE

**F-1 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve August 24, 2021 thru September 13, 2021 - Bill List attached and listed below:

Fund 10	\$ 1,445.85
Fund 11	\$218,906.81
Fund 20	\$ 6,401.56
Grand Total	\$226,754.22

Moved: Dale Bouma Seconded: Danielle Christmann Discussion: None

Roll Call	Bogle	Bouma	Brislin	Christmann	Mikulski	Plotsky	Holstein	Total
YES	Χ	Х	Χ	X	Х	Х	Χ	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

#### 15. BUILDING AND GROUNDS

**B-1 BE IT RESOLVED,** at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township approves the Use of Facilities for the following: School Bathroom Usage: Montague PTA is having a Fall Festival on Saturday, October 23, 2021 (Rain date: Sunday, October 24, 2021) for school bathroom usage. Also, the MEA Pride project will include painting hands on the cafeteria wall.

Moved: Barbara Holstein Seconded: Glen Plotsky Discussion: Barbara Holstein explained how years ago that the cafeteria had student handprints on the wall and is happy to have it come back. Danielle Christmann asked if past students can come and put their handprints on the wall too if not at this event at another time. John Nittolo answered "yes"

Roll Call	Bogle	Bouma	Brislin	Christmann	Mikulski	Plotsky	Holstein	Total
YES	Χ	Χ	Χ	Х	Х	Х	Χ	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

#### 16. 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. The board uses the public comment 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.

Lorie Jeskey, Co-President MEA, BOE is more than welcome to come and put their hands on the wall and they invite all present and past staff, Board members, present and past students to come and put their handprints on the cafeteria wall. Also, reported also who will be attending Back to School night (boy scouts, PTA, Center for Prevention, MARCH, Project Self Sufficiency, fire dept).

Andrea Campbell, Armstrong Road, Montague, it is imperative that parents make their own decisions on masking and testing.

Motion open public comment at 8:51 p.m.

Motion: Dale Bouma 2<sup>nd</sup> Glen Plotsky Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to close public comment at 8:54 p.m.

Motion: Danielle Christmann 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Brislin Voice Vote: All in Favor

**17. UNFINISHED BUSINESS -** Joseph Garcia, Esq., discussed the Addendum Resolution to implement the mask mandate. Resolution implementing removes language accepting self or parental attestation of medical Exec. Order 251. Barbara Holstein read Amended Resolution. Joseph Garcia, Esq., explained amending and removing language.

**Discussion:** Glen Plotsky stated that this policy now mirrors the Executive Order 253 in effect. Only allows Governor's exemptions. Denise Bogle stated what Ronald Regan stated when he said the Federal Government has taken too much money from the people, too much authority from the States and too much liberty from the Constitution. As Board members we are to abide by the US Constitution and the State of NJ Constitution. Doesn't want our District to be cited for violation. Barbara Holstein cited the beginning of the oath of Board members. Oath does not say that this is according to an attorney's opinion or anyone else's opinion and interprets it differently and uphold the constitutional rights of all parents of the school district and cannot support new policy removing parents rights. Paul Brislin stated when he took his oath of office it was in fact to the Constitution of the US and the Constitution of NJ and did not take an oath of allegiance to any particular official. Dale Bouma asked if staff would be fined if they didn't comply with Executive Order. He says it should be the parents' right but doesn't want staff to be penalized or fined. Joseph Garcia, Esq., asked to discuss it in closed session. Denise Bogle agrees with Dale Bouma.

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

Barbara Holstein made a motion to have Public Comment on Amendment since it was not on the agenda. Seconded by Dale Bouma. Motion to open public comment at 9:23 p.m.

Savis Savitis from Hardyston. Nothing bad to say. Voted for Resolution. It is unconstitutional and unacceptable for the Governor to put a threat against the Board. Every day we accept it and we are walking down the wrong path and teaching our children to walk down the wrong path.

Motion to close public comment at 9:25 p.m.

Motion: Barbara Holstein 2<sup>™</sup> Danielle Christmann Voice Vote: All in Favor

- 18. NEW BUSINESS NONE
- 20. EXECUTIVE SESSION, IF NECESSARY: NONE
- 21. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Barbara Holstein 2nd: Glen Plotsky Voice Vote: All in Favor

Time of Adjournment: 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

# Carolyn B. Joseph

CAROLYN B. JOSEPH Board Secretary