

**Montague Township Board of Education Meeting  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
April 11, 2022**

**1. CALL TO ORDER at 6:32 p.m.**

**2. ROLL CALL**

	Present	Absent
Barbara Holstein, President	x	
Denise Bogle, Vice President		x with notice
Paul Brislin	x	
Danielle Christmann	x	
Krista Mikulski	x	
Glen Plotsky		x with notice

Others Present:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
John Nittolo- Acting CSA	_x_	_____
Carl Morelli – SBA/BS	_x_	_____
Mark Nehme – 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 6:34 p.m.

Motion: Danielle Christmann                      2nd: Paul Brislin                      Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to close Executive Session at 7:07 p.m.

Motion: Danielle Christmann                      2nd: Paul Brislin                      Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Motion: Paul Brislin                      2nd: Danielle Christmann                      Voice Vote: All in Favor

**7. CSA REPORT - John Nittolo, Acting CSA - One HIB investigation as unfounded. They are concluding the report with their families. June 16th is 8th grade graduation. June 17, 2022 will be our last day. High Point graduation is June 17. Mr. Morelli and Mr. Nittolo will be at the Township meeting tomorrow to discuss the budget. All 7th graders had CPR training and received CPR cards. The MEA Bingo was on April 8. Very well attended, nice prizes, people left happy. The Performance reports are now available online. Not a ton of information in this report because no testing the past 2 years. Thank you to Mr. Glen Plotsky and Ms. Krista Mikulski for your guidance during your time on the Board. Danielle Christmann commented on**

the MEA bingo night and said it was a really good night and very well planned. Paul Brislin asked about the 8th grade graduation time and that last year's graduation was excellent.

**8. SBA REPORT - Carl Morelli, BA** - Regarding the roof project, we are having our first pre-construction meeting on April 28, 2022 at the school with to discuss schedule, times and staging items and entire scope of the project, this will involved general contracting team, manufacturer's representative and the roofing subcontractor. First time everyone will be onsite on the roof. Goal is to start the first week after the students have completed classes and to be completed before they return in September. Some material is backordered but everything will be delivered prior to them starting. Regarding the library, it is part of our 2022-2023SY budget but to get the students in before the end of the school year, we started on a few items. New LED lighting has been installed. We did a field inspection with Mr. Romano to run the telephone lines and internet lines out to the trailer. The old lines were not compatible with our telephone system. That will be a summer project but will not hinder the students from going out there now. Krista Mikulski asked about books. There are books in there. Ms. Coppolino has added to the books and has money in our budget to add more. There were 2 rooms that were used for storage and we consolidated them into one room and now the clean, empty room we are thinking of turning into a computer room for the students so that they can do projects while in the library. You can fit about 6 students in the room. Off the hallway, there were 3 areas that had storage in them and we cleaned out 2 of the areas and one area will be designated for a 3D printer. We have four 3D printers. It was brought to my attention that the last time the building was used as a library was in 2019 and at that time we had Destiny Library Manager System which was an online system that managed the library with inventory, checking books in and out. We are renewing the contract with them at a cost of \$2,400 initially for the first year then \$1,300 a year. Right now we are on a manual system by checking out books and writing out cards. This is the digital version of that. We need a new roof on the library. Ceiling tiles are damaged. We have 2 proposals for a new roof. With the roof being replaced, new ceiling tiles will be replaced. The carpet will be cleaned too. We are looking for an outside seating area for students so they can work outside with some type of a shade cover. Our new school facilities director was in on Friday and he provided us with a list of repairs that need to be done. Any questions regarding the budget please email us or give us a call. Please come out and vote for our budget.

Barbara Holstein stated she is very excited about the library and the outside seating area. She knows of another school that has a gazebo outside their library. Barbara suggested doing a survey of what the students would like to see out of the library.

**9. BOARD OF THE WHOLE COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS** - Barbara Holstein asked about the electrical panel project. Carl Morelli stated that he has some discussions with our architects as to what is needed and he was told that it was never brought up to investigate with our architects so it is a new conversation with them. They said it was suggested that we upgrade our electric but there was no research done as to what was needed. It was a verbal recommendation and nothing in writing for an electrical upgrade.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE** - Barbara Holstein acknowledged receipt of the April 2022 Student Council Newsletter and thanked them for their work they have been doing and making out school a better place.

Mr. Nittolo received an email from Stephanie Guida regarding the NJ Student Learning Standards 2019 edition 2020 for the NJ Comprehensive Health and Physical Education standards where you were to rewrite your curriculum. Mr. Nittolo responded to Ms. Guida. Nothing has been done regarding the 2022 implementation of the new standards that the State has put out. We are looking for guidance before we start.

**11. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Regular Meeting Minutes and the Executive Minutes of February 14, 2022.

**Moved: Danielle Christmann      Seconded: Paul Brislin      Discussion: Barbara Holstein** stated that regarding #9. Regarding Denise’s comments regarding the NJ School Board symposium, it is not required for BOE members. Request to change the minutes to say not required. Approve minutes with that change.

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Christmann	Mikulski	Plotsky	Holstein	Total
<b>YES</b>		x	x	x		x	4
<b>NO</b>							
<b>ABSTAIN</b>							
<b>ABSENT</b>	x				x		2

**BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Regular Meeting Minutes only ~~and the Executive Minutes~~ of February 28, 2022. Motion to amend by Paul Brislin, 2nd by Barbara Holstein.

**Moved: Barbara Holstein      Seconded: Paul Brislin      Discussion: Barbara Holstein** asked that since Danielle Christmann was not at the meeting can she approve the minutes if she has a copy of them? Mr. Nittolo stated that at the next meeting there will still only be 3 so do you need a majority of the board members present or the majority of the board? It will never reach more than 3. Mr. Nehme said he has to review the bylaws. Danielle Christmann stated that she did watch the video of the meeting. Mr. Nehme stated that as long as you have a majority of the board to get it passed. Mr. Brislin asked if 3 voted yes and 1 voted no would it pass or fail? Mr. Nehme stated it would fail. If you have 4 members now who are willing to approve the minutes it will pass but if you don’t hold off until we can get a full opinion on the matter. 9325.4 is BOE policy for voting. Policy requires just a majority of the Board present. If you voted 3 to 1 of the members present it would pass.

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Christmann	Mikulski	Plotsky	Holstein	Total
<b>YES</b>		x	x	x		x	4
<b>NO</b>							
<b>ABSTAIN</b>							
<b>ABSENT</b>	x				x		2

**BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Executive Session Minutes of February 28, 2022.

**Moved: Paul Brislin      Seconded: Barbara Holstein      Discussion:**

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Christmann	Mikulski	Plotsky	Holstein	Total
<b>YES</b>		x		x		x	3
<b>NO</b>							
<b>ABSTAIN</b>			x				1
<b>ABSENT</b>	x				x		2

**12. 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 7:34 p.m.  
 Motion: Paul Brislin                      2nd: Danielle Christmann                      Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to close Public Comment at 7:35 p.m.  
 Motion: Barbara Holstein                      2nd: Paul Brislin                      Voice Vote: All in Favor

**13. ADMINISTRATION**

**A-1 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Agreement to provide Legal Services between Montague Township Board of Education and Matthew J. Giacobbe, Esq., of Cleary Giacobbe Alfieri Jacobs, LLC, commencing April 1, 2022 until ~~June 30, 2023~~ June 30, 2022.

**Moved: Barbara Holstein    Seconded: Danielle Christmann    Discussion: Paul Brislin** has a couple questions regarding the Contract which is a 15 month contract and 2 weeks from today there will be 3 new members of the Board. Paul would like to know if Mr. Nehme’s firm would have a problem with tabling this until new board members are elected. Mr. Nehme said he couldn’t answer his firm. If the Board wants to leave this to the subsequent board that would be something they would have to respect. Carl Morelli stated that we currently do not have a contract in place. The contract expired on March 31, 2022. This one begins April 1, 2022. Ms. Mikulski asked what the difference is between the Contracts. Nothing has changed except the dates. Paul would be ok with changing the date to read April 1, 2022 until June 30, 2022. Paul is opposed to contracts over 12 months. All renewal contracts usually run from July 1 to June 30 of the school year. Made amendment to the resolution to read April 1, 2022 until June 30, 2022.

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Christmann	Mikulski	Plotsky	Holstein	Total
<b>YES</b>		x	x	x		x	4
<b>NO</b>							
<b>ABSTAIN</b>							
<b>ABSENT</b>	x				x		2

**A-2 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve School Clearance Assessment and Substance Evaluation and Treatment Contract between Montague Township School District and Tri-County Behavioral Care, LLC for the 2022-2023 school year.

**Moved: Paul Brislin                      Seconded: Danielle Christmann    Discussion: Barbara Holstein** stated that this is just another avenue to find services should we need them.

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Christmann	Mikulski	Plotsky	Holstein	Total
<b>YES</b>		x	x	x		x	4
<b>NO</b>							
<b>ABSTAIN</b>							
<b>ABSENT</b>	x				x		2

**A-3 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve Thursday, June 16, 2022 for the 8th grade promotion/graduation (time - TBD).

**Moved: Barbara Holstein                      Seconded: Paul Brislin                      Discussion: Paul Brislin already penciled it in on his calendar. Everyone will be invited.**

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Christmann	Mikulski	Plotsky	Holstein	Total
<b>YES</b>		x	x	x		x	4
<b>NO</b>							
<b>ABSTAIN</b>							
<b>ABSENT</b>	x				x		2

**A-4 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the 2022-2023 school year calendar.

**Moved: Danielle Christmann                      Seconded: Paul Brislin                      Discussion: Barbara Holstein thanked Mr. Nittolo for removing the delayed opening days and noted that our Spring Break does not concur with our April election which is the 3rd Tuesday of April. We will be in school.**

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Christmann	Mikulski	Plotsky	Holstein	Total
<b>YES</b>		x	x	x		x	4
<b>NO</b>							
<b>ABSTAIN</b>							
<b>ABSENT</b>	x				x		2

**A-5 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the following track meets (bussing to be provided by Montague School):

- April 27, 2022 - 3PM - Newton High School
- May 5, 2022 - 3PM - Newton High School
- May 10, 2022 - 3PM - Sparta High School
- May 18, 2022 - 3PM - Green Hills Elementary School
- May 24, 2022 - 3PM - Newton High School

**Moved: Paul Brislin                      Seconded: Barbara Holstein                      Discussion: Danielle Christmann asked if the students will leave early who participate in the meets. Mr. Nittolo said yes they will. Barbara Holstein asked if these are combined track meets. Mr. Nittolo said yes.**

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Christmann	Mikulski	Plotsky	Holstein	Total
<b>YES</b>		x	x	x		x	4
<b>NO</b>							
<b>ABSTAIN</b>							
<b>ABSENT</b>	x				x		2

**A-6 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the usage of the Montague School busses for transportation to the Girls on the Run 5K race on Saturday, May 21, 2022 at White Deer Plaza, Sparta, NJ 07871, 8AM to approximately 11AM.

**Moved: Danielle Christmann      Seconded: Paul Brislin      Discussion:      Mr. Nittolo thanked Ms. Pinzone and Ms. McElhaney for doing this.**

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Christmann	Mikulski	Plotsky	Holstein	Total
<b>YES</b>		x	x	x		x	4
<b>NO</b>							
<b>ABSTAIN</b>							
<b>ABSENT</b>	x				x		2

**A-7 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the PreK field trip to Light Up the Spectrum - Inclusion Center, Milford, PA, on May 13, 2022 from 10AM to 12PM at a cost of \$1,100.00.

**Moved: Barbara Holstein      Seconded: Paul Brislin      Discussion:      Mr. Nittolo stated this will come out of our preschool budget. Ms. Holstein asked if there will be chaperones. Mr. Nittolo said there will probably be but there is a master teacher, a teacher, an assigned aide and assigned paraprofessionals. It will be up to Ms. McElhaney.**

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Christmann	Mikulski	Plotsky	Holstein	Total
<b>YES</b>		x	x	x		x	4
<b>NO</b>							
<b>ABSTAIN</b>							
<b>ABSENT</b>	x				x		2

**A-8 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Special Education field trip to Build-A-Bear, Rockaway Townsquare Mall, Rockaway Township, NJ, on April 13, 2022 from 10AM to 2:30PM (transportation provided) at a cost of \$150.00.

**Moved: Paul Brislin      Seconded: Danielle Christmann      Discussion:      Mr. Nittolo stated this is a life skills program that is in most Special Ed programs. They are going and learning how to interact.**

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Christmann	Mikulski	Plotsky	Holstein	Total
<b>YES</b>		x	x	x		x	4
<b>NO</b>							
<b>ABSTAIN</b>							
<b>ABSENT</b>	x				x		2

**14. FINANCE**

**F-1 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve scholarship for the following amount. The Dureler fund will be unitized to pay scholarships.

- \$50 - The Merusi-Youngman Award for Physical Education
- \$50 - The Durler Math Award
- \$50 - The Durler Science Award

**Moved: Danielle Christmann      Seconded: Paul Brislin      Discussion: This is the 8th grade rewards. Barbara Holstein stated there is history behind these awards and would like to boost these awards.**

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Christmann	Mikulski	Plotsky	Holstein	Total
<b>YES</b>		x	x	x		x	4
<b>NO</b>							
<b>ABSTAIN</b>							
<b>ABSENT</b>	x				x		2

**15. 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.**

Motion to open Public Comment at 8:00 p.m.

Motion: Paul Brislin                      2nd: Danielle Christmann                      Voice Vote: All in Favor

Andree Campbell, Armstrong Road, asked how many people attended the bingo the other night? Mr. Nittolo said he didn't know. Danielle Christmann said she did ask and was told that 90 something people signed up and there was maybe 2 empty tables but she didn't know the number.

Mark Romano said he talked to Mr. Runne and he said there are 25, maybe a few more for the track team. Mr. Nittolo thinks it is for 4th grade and up but he may be wrong.

Motion to close Public Comment at 8:03 p.m.

Motion: Paul Brislin                      2nd: Barbara Holstein                      Voice Vote: All in Favor

**16. UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - From Denise's report from February's minutes she mentioned a program for school lunches but there was a deadline on that. Barbara Holstein asked if we had any information on. Carl Morelli would look into it.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: Paul Brislin                      2nd Danielle Christmann                      Voice Vote: All in Favor

Time of Adjournment: 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carl Morelli*

CARL MORELLI, Board Secretary