

**Montague Township Board of Education Meeting  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
February 14, 2022 - 6:30 pm**

**1. CALL TO ORDER at 6:31 p.m.**

**2. ROLL CALL**

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

Others Present:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
John Nittolo- Acting CSA	_x_	_
Carl Morelli – SBA/BS	_x_	_
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 - Motion to move Executive Session to end of meeting. Motion Denise Bogle 2nd Paul Brislin - Voice Vote - All in Favor**

**7. CSA REPORT - John Nittolo, CSA - Recognized January Students of the Month. Update on absences. Ran absent report from January 11, 2018 to February 7, 2019 we had 316.5 absences. January 11, 2021 to February 7, 2022 we had 316 absences. As of this meeting only 13 absences and no COVID cases. Formal report of Start Strong Summer results. Mr. Romano working on Civil Right Data collection. No HIB investigations. An investigation is being processed now and we are waiting for findings before presenting.**

**8. SBA REPORT - Carl Morelli, BA - 1.) I have implemented a new employee portal which will give our employees access to their payroll information whenever they need it and move us away from issuing paper check stubs and yearly tax forms to digital check information and forms. This will begin with our next payroll and our staff will be notified within the next few days. Also, there was no additional cost to the district for this new employee portal. 2.) As of last Tuesday, a Bill was posted S1414 and just passed the legislator awaiting the Governor’s signature that changes that Governor’s budget address from February 22, 2022 to March 8, 2022. With this change, State Aid would then be released on March 10, 2022. The budget (April voting districts) had been originally due on March 4, 2022 but now will most likely be changed to March 18, 2022. We will not know until the Bill is passed, signed by the Governor and the election calendar is modified. With this change, the approval of our tentative budget will most likely be at the March 14, 2022 meeting. We will post this updated information on our website as soon as it becomes office. 3.) The review of our current budget is continuing and I will report on this at our next meeting. 4.) In the process of completing items that were outstanding and not submitted to the County office. 5.) All notices have been posted regarding our upcoming Board of Education election and information is available on our website.**

**9. BOARD OF THE WHOLE COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS** - Denise Bogle - Update on Sussex County School Board of Education, attended both January and February meetings. The Department of Agriculture is seeking agencies to sponsor a Summer Food service program. Application due by March 21, 2022. District *may be* reimbursed for meals. On April 26 & 27, 2022, Spring Symposium that Board of Educations are not required to attend. Virtual with 40 presenters. BA is to register BOE members. Registration deadline is April 21, 2022. The State also has approved, as of February, 2022, what's called Quality Zone Academy Bonds used for Federal financing for local BOE to borrow money to rehabilitate, repair schools, train teachers, develop curriculum and invest in technology. Interest free. Certified 5 year Certificate Pilot Program each district is to apply for and commissioner approved for teachers who have CEA certification. Any retired teacher between the ages 55-76 can return to teaching and is not required to enroll in the pension fund (Bill #S1219). Students in grades 9-12 can be elected by students to serve as a non voting member on BOE. Next county meeting is March 31, 2022. Participated in 2 workshops - one on Mental Health and one on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). Danielle Christmann attended the winter concert and stated it was a wonderful experience and thanked Mrs. Taylor for the amazing job she did. Barbara Holstein discussed having the kids come back to BOE meetings to do performances, etc. Ms. Frost spearheaded a campaign to bring winter coats to students. Pushing HVAC and roof discussion to the next BOE meeting. Mr. Morelli was asked to look into moving ahead with electrical upgrades. Provided information for the School Board Election and information is posted on the website.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE** - Email 02/02/22 to [boe@montagueschool.org](mailto:boe@montagueschool.org) from Tabernacle Twp. BOE President regarding our letter to parents regarding COVID procedures. Mr. Nittolo had a nice conversation with the Tabernacle Twp. CSA too.

**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 open public comment at 7:29 p.m. Motion Danielle Christmann 2nd Denise Bogle - All in favor - Voice Vote -

Anthony Mastrioni, President, Montague Twp. Baseball - Just making sure no questions regarding request of using gym for clinics

Motion to close public comment at 7:31 p.m. Motion Paul Brislin 2<sup>nd</sup> Danielle Christmann Voice Vote - All in Favor

**12. ADMINISTRATION**

**A-1 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the Contract for Educational Services between the Board of Education of Montague Township and Northern Hills Academy for Student ID#13844119 with a start date of February 7, 2022 and the full-time tuition cost of \$57,670.00 (prorated) and shared paraprofessional cost of \$13,695.00 (prorated).

**Moved: Denise Bogle**

**Seconded: Danielle Christmann**

**Discussion:**

<b>Roll Call</b>	<b>Bogle</b>	<b>Brislin</b>	<b>Christmann</b>	<b>Mikulski</b>	<b>Plotsky</b>	<b>Holstein</b>	<b>Total</b>
<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 Board of Education approve the Tuition Contract between the Montague Board of Education and The Windsor School for Student ID#100294 commencing December 6, 2021 until June, 2022 for a total number billable days of 121 days with a tentative tuition charge of \$52,030.00.

**Moved: Denise Bogle                                  Seconded: Danielle Christmann          Discussion: BH asked if these are coming about because of appointing Ms. Dawson as Special Ed. JN stated yes.**

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

**A-3 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the Educational Services Commission of Morris County 2022-2023 Rates of Service.

**Moved: Paul Brislin                                  Seconded: Denise Bogle                          Discussion: This is just the BOE accepting their rates. JN stated we are also getting services from J&B and Ed Services.**

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

**A-4 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the New Jersey Department of Education School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act: 2020-2021.

**Moved: Denise Bogle                                  Seconded: Danielle Christmann  
Discussion: All criteria was met we just did not exceed criteria**

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

### **13. PERSONNEL**

**P-1 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve **LISA CIRELLO** as a substitute School Nurse, pending background check, at the rate of \$170.00 per day for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Moved: Paul Brislin                                  Seconded: Denise Bogle                          Discussion: BH is thankful we found someone as a substitute nurse for our district.**

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Christmann	Mikulski	Plotsky	Holstein	Total
YES	x	x	x			x	4
NO							
ABSTAIN							

<b>ABSENT</b>				x	x		2
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**P-2 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve **DENA COLE** as a part-time paraprofessional, pending background check, at the rate of \$19.41 per hour for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Moved: Denise Bogle**

**Seconded: Barbara Holstein**

**Discussion:**

<b>Roll Call</b>	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. TRANSPORTATION**

**T-1 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the Ogdensburg Choice School Application for Transportation Services for the 2022-2023 school year.

**Moved: Denise Bogle**

**Seconded: Paul Brislin**

**Discussion: This is to**

**approve the aide in lieu payments. Have to confer with the school to confirm information.**

<b>Roll Call</b>	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

**T-2 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the Sussex Middle School Choice School Application for Transportation Services for the 2022-2023 school year.

**Moved: Paul Brislin**

**Seconded: Denise Bogle**

**Discussion:**

<b>Roll Call</b>	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. POLICIES**

**P-1 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education, approve that as of March 7, 2022, masks shall be optional for all students and staff as per the lifting of the mandate requiring masking in public schools.

**Moved: Paul Brislin**

**Seconded: Barbara Holstein**

**Discussion: Paul Brislin asked where this is coming from. We will not be deprived of State aid for this. This is per Governor Murphy. Caveat - children still have to wear masks on school buses. Mr. Nittolo fully supports this.**

<b>Roll Call</b>	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
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**16. BUILDING AND GROUNDS**

**B-1 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the Montague PTA's Request for Use of Facilities or Grounds for the following: **School Bathroom Usage** for their Spring Fling Vendor/Craft Fair on Saturday, April 30, 2022 from 11AM to 3PM in the school soccer field. In the event it rains on April 30, 2022, the PTA is also requesting the use of the gymnasium for vendors/crafters to set up in.

**Moved: Denise Bogle                                  Seconded: Danielle Christmann      Discussion:**

<b>Roll Call</b>	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

**B-2 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the Montague Little League's Request for Use of Facilities or Grounds for the following: **Gymnasium usage for baseball clinics commencing February 14, 2022 until April 15, 2022 from 6PM to 8PM (week night(s) to be determined).**

**Moved: Denise Bogle                                  Seconded: Paul Brislin                          Discussion:**

<b>Roll Call</b>	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

**17. 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 7:50 p.m.

Motion Danielle Christmann                          2nd Denise Bogle                                  Voice Vote: All in Favor

Mark Romano apologized for the issues with the sound system. He checked everything before meeting. On February 21 and 22, 2022 the entire sound system in the gym is being replaced. Danielle Christmann thanked Mr. Andriac and Ms. Jeskey for fixing the sound issue at the winter concert.

Sabrina Morgan, 77 Deckertown Tpk. Calling to say thank you for approving the parent option for masks.

Elle Murphy, 15 Plaza Drive, Newton - Calling in regarding bus issues and what measures are being taken in reference to buses and are you looking to go back to getting a bus company.

Barbara Holstein responded that there is a bus driver shortage state-wide. BOE will be examining transportation.

Motion to close public comment at 7:57 p.m.

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

**18. NEW BUSINESS** - Barbara Holstein gave her condolences to DJ Howie's family who passed away and thanked him for all the time he dedicated to our school.

**19. 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 7:59 p.m.

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

Motion to close Executive Session at 8:52 p.m.

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

Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Motion Danielle Christmann                      2<sup>nd</sup> Denise Bogle                      Voice Vote: All in Favor

**20. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion Denise Bogle                      2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Brislin                      Voice Vote: All in Favor

Time of Adjournment: 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carl Morelli*

CARL MORELLI,  
Board Secretary