

**Montague Township Board of Education Meeting
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2022**

1. CALL TO ORDER at 6:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

	Present	Absent
Barbara Holstein, President	x	
Denise Bogle, Vice President	x (6:36 p.m.)	
Paul Brislin	x	
Andree Campbell	x	
Danielle Christmann	x	
Tasha DeGeorge	x	
Michael Zernhelt	x	

Others Present:	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
James Andriac - Acting CSA	x	_____
Carl Morelli, SBA/BS	x	_____
Joseph Garcia, Esq. – Board Atty.	x	_____

3. FLAG SALUTE - FOLLOWED BY A MOMENT OF SILENCE OR PRAYER

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 - Barbara Holstein asked if there are any items that pertaining to the agenda related to executive session it will be skipped and go right into agenda items.

7. CSA REPORT - James Andriac - thanked the BOE for giving him the opportunity as Principal and Acting CSA. Thanked John Nittolo for his leadership and vision for the past year. Gave thanks to Melinda Bellis, Danielle Conklin and Dana Berry for all their hard work. Thanked Megan McElhaney, Anna Cortiana and David Miller and custodial staff for all their hard work. Summer school program has been very successful. We have about 50 students who attend Monday-Thursday, 8AM to 12PM. Also, thanked the staff for working summer school. Happy to announce that there are 2 new bus drivers on the agenda. The leadership team has met twice so far this summer and will meet 3 or 4 more times. Invites the public to meet with him at any regular Board meeting from 5PM to 6PM to strengthen the bond between the school and community.

8. SBA REPORT - Carl Morelli - The roof project is still underway at a very good pace. As long as the weather is good it will be completed before school starts. Regarding the library, the construction and technology part is continuing through the summer and will be finished before the school year. The technology part includes installation of 3D printers, internet, camera systems, telephones and everything else that is required under technology. Regarding construction that includes painting of the outside of the building and also any other decorative

work. Regarding our school building, work on the preschool bathroom will begin at the end of the summer school and the month of August will be dedicated to that. Regarding air-conditioning, I spoke with Trane regarding indoor air quality and HVAC systems for our school. Provided BOE members with pamphlets for their review. They will come out and assess our school at no cost. We have one large unit above the gym which is a ventilation unit for the gym. If that unit is replaced with a unit that provides heating and air conditioning, the gym within days will have air conditioning. If we put a larger unit in we can air-condition the gym and the cafeteria. There are no ducts or vents in the cafeteria so that would have to be done. Regarding transportation, the ad for a transportation coordinator has been published and will be conducting interviews for it. Asked again for the public to use the transportation email to reach out for any questions, concerns, suggestions. Our Montague Township website now includes a direct link to Montague school.

9. BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT - Barbara Holstein - Thinks it is amazing that we have 50 students attending the summer school program and knows the program will benefit them. Thanked the staff and the parents for bringing their children to the program. Hopes the State enacts a full school year. Thinks the meet and greet that Mr. Andriac is offering with the public is wonderful. The BOE will not attend those meetings with Mr. Andriac. Ms. Holstein appreciates all the efforts by the staff to date as we see Montague School District move forward and fulfilling the mission that we have for the potential of every child by making the school building that it has been in the past 10 years. As you walk through the building you can see it and feel it. Commended both Mr. Andriac and Mr. Morelli for their work they have done so far.

10. 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 May 25, 2022.

Moved: Paul Brislin Seconded: Andree Campbell Discussion: None

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Campbell	Christmann	DeGeorge	Holstein	Zernhelt	Total
YES		x	x	x	x	x	x	6
NO								
ABSTAIN	x							1
ABSENT								

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 June 8, 2022.

Moved: Andree Campbell Seconded: Denise Bogle Discussion: None

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Campbell	Christmann	DeGeorge	Holstein	Zernhelt	Total
YES	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

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 June 22, 2022.

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge

Seconded: Michael Zernhelt

Discussion: None

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Campbell	Christmann	DeGeorge	Holstein	Zernhelt	Total
YES		x	x		x	x	x	5
NO								
ABSTAIN	x			x				2
ABSENT								

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 6:48 p.m.

Motion Danielle Christmann

2nd Paul Brislin

Voice Vote: All in Favor

Barbara Holstein stated that she spoke with some school districts and they have gone back to in-person only and did away with the hybrid. She thinks that the hybrid meeting is working very well because it allows more people to watch and be knowledgeable about what is going on.

David Friedman, 26 Red Hill Road, Montague, NJ. His son attends ESY at Northern Hills and his son was refused access to the school today due to the lack of a main office packet which is due by July 1, 2022. His question is when does the school year begin and end? Barbara Holstein checked with Joseph Garcia, Esq., to make sure that we could discuss the issue, which Mr. Friedman agreed to discuss. Mr. Friedman asked if the new school is July 1 or September? Mr. Andriac said he would research it and reach out to Mr. Friedman tomorrow. Mr. Andriac asked if the packet was from Northern Hills? Mr. Friedman replied yes. His parent packet from Northern Hills was not filled out. He has been attending since July 5th and today he was denied access to the school. Mr. Garcia asked if he filled out the packet and Mr. Friedman said he was doing this tonight. A phone call will be made to Northern Hills tomorrow so this doesn't happen again in the future. Denise Bogle stated that there are specific releases that are in the packet and that may be a possible reason why they denied him access regardless of how long he has been in the school they need to present them to the State. Barbara Holstein stated that there is some due diligence on the school. We will take this seriously and look to make sure it doesn't happen again.

Motion to close Public Comment at 6:56 p.m.

Motion Barbara Holstein

2nd Andree Campbell

Voice Vote: All in Favor

12. FINANCE AND INSURANCE

F-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the July 1, 2022 through July 13, 2022 Bill List attached and listed below:

Fund 10	\$104,105.33
Fund 11	\$ 39,754.82
Fund 20	\$ 793.23
Grand Total	\$144,653.28

Moved: Paul Brislin Seconded: Danielle Christmann Discussion: Barbara Holstein stated that Tasha DeGeorge's reimbursement is on the bills list.

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Campbell	Christmann	DeGeorge	Holstein	Zernhelt	Total
YES	x	x	x	x		x	x	6
NO								
ABSTAIN					x			1
ABSENT								

F-2 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Tuition Contract between the DCCF, LLC (dba Limitless) and the Montague Schools Board of Education for Student ID#7671899359 to attend the summer program commencing July 6, 2022 through August 5, 2022.

Tuition Amount	Paraprofessional	Total
\$5,758.00	\$2,346.00	\$8,104.00

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge Seconded: Denise Bogle Discussion: Barbara Holstein asked what does DCCF stand for? Mr. Morelli stated that based on their contract that DCCF is their LLC.

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Campbell	Christmann	DeGeorge	Holstein	Zernhelt	Total
YES	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

F-3 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Tuition Contract between Celebrate the Children and the Montague Township Board of Education for Student ID#7671899359 for the 2022-23SY commencing September 7, 2022 (total number of billable days will be 180).

Tuition Amount	Paraprofessional	Total
\$77,580.00	\$31,500.00	\$109,080.00

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge Seconded: Danielle Christmann Discussion: None

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Campbell	Christmann	DeGeorge	Holstein	Zernhelt	Total
YES	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

F-4 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Contract for Educational Services - ESY 2022 between the Sussex County Education Services Commission and the Board of Education of Montague Township dated July 5, 2022 for Student ID#7601787301 who will attend the ESY program at Northern Hills Academy.

Tuition Amount	Paraprofessional	Therapy (1)	Total
\$10,220.00	\$5,562.00	\$415.00	\$16,197.00

Moved: Andree Campbell Seconded: Denise Bogle Discussion: None

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Campbell	Christmann	DeGeorge	Holstein	Zernhelt	Total
YES	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

F-5 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Request to Provide Services Contract for educational services provided by the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired from September 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 for Student ID#859060188.

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge Seconded: Andree Campbell Discussion: None

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Campbell	Christmann	DeGeorge	Holstein	Zernhelt	Total
YES	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	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 creation of an Audio Visual Production Club with Michael Spina as Club Advisor with a stipend according to the MEA Agreement.

Moved: Danielle Christmann Seconded: Denise Bogle Discussion: Barbara Holstein said that she is thrilled to see this on the agenda and was hoping that this is something that Mr. Spina would start. Barbara Holstein also stated that High Point has a production club and they produce the BOE meetings.

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Campbell	Christmann	DeGeorge	Holstein	Zernhelt	Total
YES	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

P-2 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the following stipend positions according to the MEA Agreement for the 2022-23 school year:

- 8th Grade Advisor - Emily Weiss and Rachel VanGorden
- Baseball/Softball - Chandler Smith, Casey Levens and Rachel VanGorden
- Basketball/Cross Country/Track and Field - Brent Runne and Emily Weiss
- Bell Choir - Jody Taylor
- Girls on the Run - Darah Pinzone and Megan McElhaney
- Soccer - Rachel VanGorden
- Student Council - Lori Jeskey and Jody Taylor
- Theatre Club - Clancey Lane
- Yearbook - Melissa Neamand

Moved: Paul Brislin Seconded: Michael Zernhelt Discussion: Paul Brislin has a question as to the amount of the stipends as it is not specifically stated on the agenda. Mr. Andriac stated that they would be different amounts. Mr. Zernhelt asked if it was possible to get a digital version of the MEA contract. Ms. Holstein stated that the binders were given to each BOE member and hopes they are utilized. Mr. Garcia said it is on Page 37 of the MEA agreement and listed all the stipends. P1 is \$1,000 and P2 is \$1,000 except for Basketball/Cross Country/Track and Field which is \$1,500.00. The goal is to eventually play other schools in some of the sports and have more of the \$1,500 stipend. Ms. Bogle asked if they receive a \$1,000 stipend for the year for that position. Mr. Andriac said yes. Ms. Holstein said that this is an investment and dollar amount is essential to our school and the betterment of our students. Ms. Holstein would like to commend the faculty who stepped up to take on these roles and responsibilities. Tasha DeGeorge stated that we fought for a lot of these things for a long time and it's nice to see the variety of items on here. Mr. Andriac stated that there is a chance that we may be able to get a wrestling team started in the Fall. We may be getting mats donated. Ms. Holstein is over the moon about this. These visions have come from everybody and is excited to see them to grow. Mr. Andriac said there is a lot of potential. Ms. Christmann stated that there is a high interest in cheerleading too. Mr. Andriac said there are a lot of different opportunities for the mats. Mr. Zernhelt is excited for wrestling too and Ms. Campbell stated her son was on the wrestling team and is thrilled. Mr. Andriac stated that at one point in the 90s they were the top team in the county. Ms. Holstein stated that it is for both boys and girls. We are very pleased with this potential. Mr. Andriac thanked the PTA for their assistance too

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Campbell	Christmann	DeGeorge	Holstein	Zernhelt	Total
YES	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

P-3 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve **Sabrina Morgan** as substitute teacher, pending background check (if needed), for the 2022-2023 school year.

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge Seconded: Denise Bogle Discussion: None

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Campbell	Christmann	DeGeorge	Holstein	Zernhelt	Total
YES	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

P-4 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve **Pamela Johnson** as bus driver, pending background check, for the 2022-2023 school year, with a start date of August 31, 2022.

Moved: Danielle Christmann Seconded: Denise Bogle Discussion: Ms. Holstein said this fabulous and looking forward to a smooth start to the school year with other adjustments in the transportation area.

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Campbell	Christmann	DeGeorge	Holstein	Zernhelt	Total
YES	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

P-5 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve **Ida Hickey** as bus driver, pending background check, for the 2022-2023 school year, with a start date of August 31, 2022.

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge Seconded: Danielle Christmann Discussion: Ms. Holstein said ditto so what she said above for Ms. Johnson and that Ms. Hickey was a driver for us in 2007 and is a long time Montague resident.

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Campbell	Christmann	DeGeorge	Holstein	Zernhelt	Total
YES	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

P-6 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the following to be able to write curriculums for the 2022-2023 school year, not to exceed \$250.00 per person as per MEA Contract:

- Jessica Coppelino
- Anna Dawson (Cortiana)
- Chandler Howard (Smith)
- Lori Jeskey
- Meghan McElhaney
- Darah Pinzone
- Brent Runne
- Michele Tagliabue
- Debra Vigorito
- Michelle Visco

Moved: Paul Brislin Seconded: Denise Bogle Discussion: Paul Brislin asked going forward to put a dollar amount in a resolution referencing a stipend. Mr. Morelli said we can do that.

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Campbell	Christmann	DeGeorge	Holstein	Zernhelt	Total
YES	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

P-7 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve maternity leave for **Employee #22979231** effective August 31, 2022.

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge

Seconded: Denise Bogle

Discussion: None

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Campbell	Christmann	DeGeorge	Holstein	Zernhelt	Total
YES	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

P-8 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve tuition reimbursement to **Employee #64474109** in the amount of \$6,480.00 pursuant to the MEA Contract.

Moved: Denise Bogle

Seconded: Michael Zernhelt

Discussion: Ms.

Holstein

thanked the employee for investing in the students and school.

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Campbell	Christmann	DeGeorge	Holstein	Zernhelt	Total
YES	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

14. 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 7:22 p.m.

Motion Paul Brislin 2nd Michael Zernhelt

Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to close Public Comment at 7:23 p.m.

Motion Denise Bogle 2nd Tasha DeGeorge

Voice Vote: All in Favor

15. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - Ms. Holstein stated that Congressman Gottheimer signed on to being against any change to the national park. The effort is still ongoing to make sure this redesignation does not take place and continuing to request specifics of the proposal.

16. NEW BUSINESS - Tasha DeGeorge said Montague school was well represented at Montague day. Mr. and Mrs. Jeskey and Ms. Edwards were there representing the MEA and John and Jill Couch and Emily Schiabor were there on behalf of the PTA. Thank you to Mr. Andriac, Mr. Runne and Ms. Weiss for participating in the dunk tank. She also went to the High Point meeting at the end of June. They discussed graduation, family day, some of the students are going to wrestling camp and cheerleading camp and most of the costs were paid for through their fundraising. Their lunch is going up to \$3.75 and breakfast will be \$2.50. Ms. Holstein said HP does a fabulous job of fundraising.

Ms. Bogle asked a question about the curriculum at HP and mentioned the possibility of pursuing an agricultural program so that the student center at the FFA can continue at HP. Ms. Holstein asked if she was asking about HP starting a FFA chapter and she said yes. Mr. Andriac said they were looking into it and trying to get the ball rolling and will follow up with it. Ms. Holstein said it sounds like an awesome opportunity.

Ms. Holstein wanted to introduce three (3) things. There were many items regarding special education programs. As this agenda came to our attention and the June 8th meeting there were many items referencing special education programs. She believes that when she was in the district that we operated this district with a self-contained program meaning our students that are moderately to profoundly with disabilities that their IEPs addressed their needs were met in the District from K-3 and 4th, 5th and 6th grade self-contained classroom. You are limited by law. You can only have 4 grade levels. IEPs are decided individually but Ms. Holstein wants to make it a Board goal from now until the next school to implement a self-contained classroom for all three sections of grade levels we serve. K-3, 4-6 and separate 7-8. Preschool is not included. Ms. Holstein believes When we send students out of district we are putting them on a minimum 2.5 hour bus ride. For many of the children this is a difficult transaction to make this transportation and for the District financially speaking it is very costly. If we can have special ed teachers focused on self-contained we will be enhancing the program here at the school and putting money into the program at the school and save on transportation costs which are very high. Ms. Holstein wanted to present this idea so that as we move forward we can look into the structure of the school and how we can accommodate this. Mr. Andriac stated that they have been looking at different options and working on it. Ms. Bogle stated that age differential cannot expand a 4 year span not just grade but age as well per Federal guidelines. If you just have 1 child that is in 4, 5 and 6 would you employ a teacher for just 1 student? Ms. Holstein said based on resolutions in the past and as Mr. Nittolo has stated our special education numbers grew. Ms. Holstein said in her opinion that the special education program they had there was done away with egregiously. She is looking to the Board to contribute and be mindful that his is something that we need to look into bringing back this program. Ms. Holstein asked Mr. Andriac if he could give an update on this matter at the next BOE meeting. Ms. Holstein just wanted to bring it up and have the public be aware that she is mindful of this. It is part of moving forward.

The other item that needs to be done as new business is District/Board goals. As we move from 21-22 we are in a position with Mr. Morelli and Mr. Andriac in place to sit during workshop we will be looking to create district goals as well as creating CSA goals so that we have a proper evaluation system in place going forward and for Mr. Andriac to do evaluation of the staff as well.

Mr. Morelli said that he spoke to Mr. Garcia about the District goals and his office can help with setting them up.

Ms. Bogle stated that the we as the BOE were supposed to be given the opportunity to be trained on how to evaluate our own CSA which we never have and never afforded that and that we were to be able to set goals and objectives as well which she believes it is a County objective that every BOE has to have realistic goals and objectives set.

Ms. Holstein stated that she was trying to work with NJSBA in the past for the goals and objectives but it wasn't followed through with so we will move forward with this individually on our own.

17. 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 will not be taken.

Motion to open Executive Session at 7:40 p.m.

Motion Denise Bogle 2nd Paul Brislin Voice Vote: All in Favor

Ms. Holstein stated that no action will be taken after the executive session.

Motion to close Executive Session at 9:15 p.m.

Motion Tasha DeGeorge 2nd Michael Zernhelt Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at 9:15 p.m.

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

Ms. Holstein stated that she is looking to go back to past practice that all attachments for the agenda be sent via email and if you would like to have a hard copy that the individual BOE member could make a request to Mr. Morelli. Mr. Brislin stated that he wants his printed. Ms. Christmann said it is easier to have the paper in front of them in case questions are raised. Mr. Garcia stated that some Districts provide BOE members with chromebooks. Ms. Holstein said we can use google docs file. Most of the BOE likes the idea of the chromebooks. The piles of paper are too much.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Michael Zernhelt 2nd Danielle Chistmann Voice Vote: All in Favor

Time of Adjournment: 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Morelli

CARL MORELLI
Board Secretary