

**Montague Board of Education Meeting
Organization Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 4, 2022
6:30 p.m.**

- I. The Board Secretary shall call the meeting to order.
- II. Flag Salute
- III. Mission Statement

The mission of the Montague School District is to provide the best educational experience and opportunities resources allow, in order to realize the potential of every child.

- IV. The Board Secretary shall announce the notice of the meeting 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.
- V. The Board Secretary shall announce the official results of the annual school election:

**Montague Township Board of Education Members
Vote for Two (2) Full 3-Year Terms**

Candidates	Total Votes	Vote %
Michael Zernhelt	254	28.41%
Stephanie Guida	191	21.36%
Tasha DeGeorge	229	25.62%
Jaime Johnson	216	24.16%
Write In	4	0.45%

**Montague Township Board of Education Members
Vote for One (1) 1-Year Unexpired Term**

Candidates	Total Votes	Vote %
Andree Campbell	257	57.49%
Dawn Marion	187	41.83%
Write In	3	0.67%

VI. The Board Secretary shall administer the oath of office to the newly elected Board members: - Tasha DeGeorge (unable to attend tonight's meeting with notice and will be sworn in at next meeting)

1. Andree Campbell was sworn in by Carl Morelli, BS
2. Michael Zernhelt was sworn in by Carl Morelli, BS

VII. The Board Secretary shall conduct a Roll Call:

Board Members	Present	Absent
Denis Bogle	X (zoom)	
Paul Brislin	X	
Andree Campbell	X	
Danielle Christmann	X	
Tasha DeGeorge		X
Barbara Holstein	X	
Michael Zernhelt	X	

Others Present:

John Nittolo, Acting Chief School Administrator
 Carl Morelli, Board Secretary
 Joseph Garcia, Esq.

Present

___X___
 ___X___
 ___X___

Absent

VIII. The Board Secretary will entertain nominations for President. Nominations follow.

Denise Bogle nominated Barbara Holstein for the role of President. Andree Campbell seconded.

IX. The Board Secretary shall conduct a roll call vote for the position of President.

Moved: Denise Bogle Seconded: Andree Campbell Discussion: Danielle Christmann asked if she can nominate someone else. Joseph Garcia, Esq., stated that there is a nomination on the floor with a second so they will vote and if it passes Barbara Holstein is President if not Danielle can nominate someone. Danielle Christmann nominated Paul Brislin for President. Carl Morelli, BS conducted a roll call nomination of President with Ms. Holstein being nominated. Paul Brislin passed and then stated the vote was to come back to him.

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Campbell	Christmann	DeGeorge	Holstein	Zernhelt	Total
YES	x		x			x	x	4
NO		x		x				2
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT					x			1

X. The elected Board President assumes the chair - Barbara Holstein elected President.

XI. The Board President will entertain nominations for First Vice-President. Nominations Follow.

Mike Zernhelt nominated Denise Bogle. Denise Bogle declined the nomination. Danielle Christmann nominated Paul Brislin.

XII. The Board Secretary shall conduct a roll call vote for the position of First Vice-President.

Moved: Barbara Holstein

Seconded: Andree Campbell

Discussion:

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Campbell	Christmann	DeGeorge	Holstein	Zernhelt	Total
YES			x	x		x	x	4
NO								
ABSTAIN	x	x						2
ABSENT					x			1

A-1 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Township Board of Education appoints Carl Morelli, Board Secretary, whose term of office shall coincide with term of life of the Board through the 2023 Reorganization meeting.

Moved: Barbara Holstein

Seconded: Denise Bogle

Discussion:

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

A-2 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Township Board of Education appoints Carl Morelli, School Business Administrator, whose term of office shall coincide with term of life of the Board through the 2023 Reorganization meeting.

Moved: Denise Bogle

Seconded: Michael Zernhelt

Discussion:

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

A-3 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Township Board of Education appoints Carl Morelli, School Business Administrator, to be designated as the Investment Officer of Records whose term of office shall coincide with term of life of the Board through the 2023 Reorganization meeting.

Moved: Paul Brislin

Seconded: Denise Bogle

Discussion:

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

A-4 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Township Board of Education appoints Carl Morelli to be designated as the District's Right to Know Officer, whose term of office shall coincide with term of life of the Board through the 2023 Reorganization meeting.

Moved: Michael Zernhelt

Seconded: Danielle Christmann

Discussion:

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

A-5 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Township Board of Education appoints Carl Morelli to be designated as the District's Purchasing Agent, whose term of office shall coincide with term of life of the Board through the 2023 Reorganization meeting.

Moved: Barbara Holstein

Seconded: Danielle Christmann

Discussion:

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

A-6 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Township Board of Education appoints Carl Morelli, Interim Pest Management Coordinator until May 31, 2022 and appoints David Miller, as of June 1, 2022, to be designated as the District's Integrated Pest Management Coordinator, whose term of office shall coincide with term of life of the Board through the 2023 Reorganization meeting.

Moved: Andree Campbell

Seconded: Denise Bogle

Discussion: Barbara Holstein asked if it was okay to appoint David Miller before he begins his employment. Joseph Garcia, Esq., stated he didn't have an issue with it legally.

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

A-7 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Township Board of Education appoints Carl Morelli to be designated as the District's Custodian of Records (as required under the Open Public Records Act), whose term of office shall coincide with term of life of the Board through the 2023 Reorganization meeting.

Moved: Paul Brislin

Seconded: Denise Bogle

Discussion:

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

A-8 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Township Board of Education appoints Rene E. Metzgar as the Treasurer of School Monies, whose term of office shall coincide with term of life of the Board through the 2023 Reorganization meeting.

Moved: Denise Bogle **Seconded:** Andree Campbell **Discussion:** Barbara Holstein asked Carl Morelli to ask Rene Metzgar on behalf of the Board to stop by at a meeting so that the Board and Rene can finally meet face to face after working together so many years. Denise Bogle thanked Barbara Holstein and thought it was a very good idea.

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

A-9 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Township Board of Education appoints John Nittolo as the District’s ADA officer.

Moved: Danielle Christmann **Seconded:** Paul Brislin **Discussion:**

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

A-10 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Township Board of Education appoints James Andriac as the District’s Affirmative Action Officer.

Moved: Michael Zernhelt **Seconded:** Barbara Holstein **Discussion:**

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

A-11 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Township Board of Education appoints Samantha Frost as the District’s Homeless Liaison.

Moved: Andree Campbell **Seconded:** Denise Bogle **Discussion:**

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

A-16 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Township Board of Education appoints Barbara Holstein Representative and Paul Brislin Alternate Representative to the Educational Services Commission of Morris County whose terms shall coincide with term of life of the Board through the 2023 Reorganization meeting.

Moved: Barbara Holstein Seconded: Danielle Christmann Discussion: Barbara Holstein asked if we are doing Morris County opposed to Sussex County? **Mr. Nittolo** stated it is just for options.

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Campbell	Christmann	DeGeorge	Holstein	Zernhelt	Total
YES	x	x*yes to BH	x	x		x	x	6
NO								
ABSTAIN		abstain for himself						
ABSENT					x			1

A-17 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Township Board of Education appoints Barbara Holstein Representative and Paul Brislin Alternate Representative to the Educational Services Commission of Sussex County whose terms shall coincide with term of life of the Board through the 2023 Reorganization meeting.

Moved: Danielle Christmann Seconded: Denise Bogle Discussion:

Roll Call	Bogle	Brislin	Campbell	Christmann	DeGeorge	Holstein	Zernhelt	Total
YES	x	x *yes to BH	x	x		x	x	6
NO								
ABSTAIN		abstain for himself						
ABSENT					x			1

A-18 WHEREAS, the Montague Board of Education desires to establish procedures for authorized signatures to be placed on the various categories of checks issued by the Board:

BE IT RESOLVED that the signatures of the Board President, School Business Administrator, and the Treasurer of School Monies shall be required on checks issued in payment of bills; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the signature of the Board President and the Treasurer of School Monies and the original signature of the School Business Administrator, Chief School Administrator shall be required on Bill Lists; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the signature of the Treasurer of School Monies shall be required on all checks issued on the Payroll Agency Account.

Account	Signor 1	Signor 2	Signor 3	Bank
Summer Savings	Carl Morelli	Melinda Bellis	Rene Metzgar	Provident Bank
Trust & Agency	Carl Morelli	Melinda Bellis	Rene Metzgar	Provident Bank
Payroll	Carl Morelli	Melinda Bellis	Rene Metzgar	Provident Bank

General Fund	Carl Morelli	BOARD PRESIDENT	Rene Metzgar	Provident Bank
Student Council	Carl Morelli	Melinda Bellis	Rene Metzgar	Provident Bank
Unemployment	Carl Morelli	Melinda Bellis	—	Provident Bank
Lunch Program	Carl Morelli	Melinda Bellis	Rene Metzgar	Provident Bank
Capital Reserve	Carl Morelli	BOARD PRESIDENT	Rene Metzgar	Provident Bank
Flexible Spending	Carl Morelli	Rene Metzgar	—	Provident Bank
Dureler Fund	Carl Morelli	Rene Metzgar	—	Provident Bank
Before & Aftercare	Carl Morelli	Melinda Bellis	—	Provident Bank
Petty Cash	Carl Morelli	Melinda Bellis	Rene Metzgar	Provident Bank
Maintenance Reserve	Carl Morelli	BOARD PRESIDENT	Rene Metzgar	Provident Bank

Moved: Paul Brislin

Seconded: Denise Bogle

Discussion:

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

A-19 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Township Board of Education appoints President Barbara Holstein (or in their absence, Vice-President) together with John Nittolo, Acting Superintendent and Carl Morelli, School Business Administrator, to be authorized to sign the payroll summary sheets prepared semi-monthly.

Moved: Denise Bogle

Seconded: Michael Zernhelt

Discussion:

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

A-20 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Township Board of Education names The New Jersey Herald News out of Newton, New Jersey, and the Sunday New Jersey Herald, out of Newton, New Jersey, as the official newspaper of the Board of Education.

Moved: Danielle Christmann

Seconded: Paul Brislin

Discussion:

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

A-21 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves that the first meeting of the month will be a Regular Business Meeting beginning May 11, 2022 and the second meeting of the month will be a Non-Action Workshop Meeting for the Board of the Whole beginning May 25, 2022.

Moved: Barbara Holstein

Seconded: Michael Zernhelt

Discussion: Danielle

Christmann asked if we are done with Monday meetings and Barbara Holstein confirmed that meetings will now be held on Wednesday and the 2nd meeting will be a Board of Whole meeting.

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

A-22 BE IT RESOLVED, Special Public Meetings, where official action is taken, will be scheduled as needed in compliance with New Jersey Sunshine Law. Closed Executive Sessions with the public excluded for the purpose of discussing personnel, legal matters, negotiations, or any other exception as defined in N.J.S.A 10:4-12 will be authorized as needed by resolution during public meetings or by special notice.

Moved: Barbara Holstein

Seconded: Danielle Christmann

Discussion:

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

A-23 BE IT RESOLVED, that all existing bylaws, policies and regulations, curriculums, textbooks, contracts and agreements as established by act and practice of previous Boards of Education are to remain in force and effect until such time as the present Board necessitates change by way of resolution.

Moved: Paul Brislin

Seconded: Andree Campbell

Discussion:

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

XIII. Correspondence - Barbara read mail from Coach B. Runne and Coach E. Weiss regarding the track and field program. Track program is up and running and they attended their first track meet. Track meet days are Thursday, May 5 at 4PM (rain date Fri., May 6), Newton High School; Tuesday, May 10th at 4PM, Sparta; Wednesday, May 18th at 4PM, Green Hills Elementary School; Tuesday, May 24th at 4PM, Newton High School (County Championship). Barbara Holstein thanked the coaches for making the effort to bring track to our school and thinks it is fabulous. Danielle Christmann was able to attend the track meet and said both coaches and students were wonderful.

XIV. 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 7:06 p.m.

Motion Paul Brislin

2nd Danielle Christmann

Voice Vote: All in Favor

Ellie Murphy, 15 Plaza Drive, Newton, NJ - Asked the Board if they were aware of a news article published today NJ Herald title "Embattled Montague superintendent on leave sues board members for retaliation" and the article stated "this board was contemplating filing tenure charges against him". If this is true she commends the Board for trying to remove this character from education. Montague is not his first victim. His employment history is riddled with all kinds of controversy. If not familiar with background Goggle Timothy C. Capone, Delaware, Timothy C. Capone, Trenton, NJ, Timothy C. Capone, Newark, NJ, Timothy C. Capone, Highland Park, NJ and our local paper the NJ Herald. This man has left a wake of destruction wherever he has been. Montague parents, school staff and students have suffered tremendously under this man's leadership style. This Board seems to be doing an outstanding job to return the school back to a normal, vibrant, happy place. Thank you Montague Board for not sending this man onto his next project.

Joseph Garcia, Esq., thanked Ms. Murphy for her comments and stated the following:

"There is a lot that I'm sure the board would like to say. They have been advised by me that we don't comment on pending litigation and I can tell you that we certainly look forward to defending ourselves and letting the process play out. The only thing I do want to mention and I do not think it is related to litigation and I did have an opportunity to read the article today and I thought the information was gratuitous and that it was not necessary to be in there and unrelated to the litigation. There was something in there about allegations that a former employee made against a current employee and some of you might recall that many months ago someone came to the stand. There was a big production here. We had video cameras here, building plans. The individual made some allegations against one of our employees. As is our obligation, we tried to do an investigation. Mary Kate Serratelli, my law partner from my office, reached out to her multiple times to try to get her to sit down with us and cooperate so that we can do an investigation. She refused time after time to cooperate in the investigation to provide any information and there was no other evidence to corroborate those charges. As a result they could not be sustained and the matter was closed. I did want to address that because again I thought it was an unnecessary and gratuitous line in that article today. Other than that we are not going to comment on the litigation."

Barbara Holstein thanked Joseph Garcia, Esq., for his comment and making that clarification on the public record.

Motion to close public comment at 7:11 p.m.

Motion Danielle Christmann

2nd Michael Zernhelt

Voice Vote: All in Favor

Carl Morelli welcomed the new members again. Also presented the BOE members with an information binder.

John Nittolo thank you for the words that everyone is speaking today and truly appreciates the town coming out to turn a 63% No vote on the budget to a 60% Yes vote this year on the budget. Took the effort of the Board, staff, new members sitting, Mr. Morelli. Believes people are happy with the way things are going. Thank you for supporting our direction and vision so we can build the best education for the children of Montague. Our goal again is to be the Best District in the State of New Jersey.

Barbara Holstein wanted to thank everyone who supported her. Proud to serve next to Paul. The Board worked this past year very hard to help our Administration turn the District into the positive direction it is currently going and we have very high goals for the remainder of this new board year through April 2023. She appreciates the opportunity to be able to work to make this District the best it can be for Montague and for the students of our town.

XV. Adjournment

Motion Michael Zernhelt 2nd Paul Brislin Voice Vote: All in Favor
Time of Adjournment: 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Morelli

CARL MORELL, Board Secretary