

**Montague Township Board of Education Meeting  
Special Meeting Minutes  
November 30, 2022**

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

**2. ROLL CALL**

	Present	Absent
Barbara Holstein, President	x	
Paul Brislin, Vice President	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 (6:32 p.m.)	_____
Joseph Garcia, Esq.	x (zoom)	_____

**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. 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 Tasha DeGeorge                      2nd Paul Brislin    Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to close Executive Session at 7:20 p.m.  
 Motion Andree Campbell                      2nd Paul Brislin    Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at 7:20 p.m.  
 Motion Tasha DeGeorge                      2nd Danielle Christmann    Voice Vote: All in Favor

**7. CSA REPORT - James Andriac** - Spoke about the wondertime the students, staff and community had at the Teachers v. 8th grade Monster Ball. Announced the winners of the school scarecrow contest - Most Traditional (2nd Grade), Most Creative (5th Grade), Best Dressed (Prek - Bellini/Martinique) and Most Humorous (Prek - Vallis/Loriz). Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for next week. Grades will be available on the parent portal on December 5, 2022. Spoke about Class Dojo which is communication between parents and teachers. Parents should not be messaging the teachers at 10PM-11PM at night. Will be looking to put a policy in place as an administration that if a message is sent to a teacher after a certain time, they do not need to respond until the following morning. NJSLA test results will be discussed at the December 14, 2022 meeting. Thanked the PTA for the upcoming book fair next week (December 5) and for really everything they have done at the school recently. They are a constant force.

Barbara Holstein stated she saw some of the videos from the Monster Ball game and it looked like a lot of fun. Would like to see this as an annual event. Mr. Andriac reached out to the staff to see if we can do something monty. Eighth grade raised \$900. Barbara Holstein would really like to paint the gym. Danielle Christmann thanked all the teachers and staff that came to the Monster Ball game.

**8. SBA REPORT - Carl Morelli** - Our cafeteria is finally in compliance with the Board of Health of Montague and State compliance with the addition of our food warmer. We have a new refrigerator and new handwashing sink. Our long range facility plan, new architect is working on that and will be on the December 14, 2022 agenda. Once that is approved, I can start pulling permits for a lot of the work that needs to be done. If you do not have this plan in place with the State your permit will be denied. Part of the plan will be a full energy audit of the building. Cannot find any previous one. Our financial auditors were in the building last week and they are completing our audit and hopefully within a couple of weeks I can present the audit.

## **9. 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 7:30 p.m.

Motion Andree Campbell                      2nd Danielle Christman                      Voice Vote: All in Favor

Mr. Andriac stated that the UV system that purifies our water for drinking went down last week. They have been fixed and are waiting for the Township to come in and do their test. We do have water dispensers with cups for the students throughout the school.

Motion to close public comment at 7:32 p.m.

Motion Michael Zernhelt                      2nd Paul Brislin                      Voice Vote:              All in Favor

## 10. ADMINISTRATION

**A-1 BE IT RESOLVED** at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve **PRISCILLA ORTIZ** as Vice Principal, \$95,000.00 per annum (prorated) for the 2022-23 school year, pending background check, with a start date of on or about January 4, 2023.

**Moved: Andree Campbell      Seconded: Tasha DeGeorge      Discussion: Barbara Holstein did state to the public that a lot of our discussion takes place in Executive Session because it is regarding personnel**

Roll Call	Brislin	Campbell	Christmann	DeGeorge	Holstein	Zernhelt	Total
<b>YES</b>	x	x	x	x	x	x	6
<b>NO</b>							
<b>ABSTAIN</b>							
<b>ABSENT</b>							

**A-2 BE IT RESOLVED** at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education appoint **MEGAN MCELHANEY** as the District's 504 Coordinator for the 2022-23SY.

**Moved: Paul Brislin      Seconded: Michael Zernhelt      Discussion: Barbara Holstein wanted to clarify that this is because we are moving from one person to another. Mr. Andriac said yes, she is filling this position. It is an unpaid position. Also congratulated Ms. McElhaney on her recent wedding over the weekend.**

Roll Call	Brislin	Campbell	Christmann	DeGeorge	Holstein	Zernhelt	Total
<b>YES</b>	x	x	x	x	x	x	6
<b>NO</b>							
<b>ABSTAIN</b>							
<b>ABSENT</b>							

**11. CANDIDATE INTERVIEW WITH CHRISTOPHER BELL** - Carl Morelli, BA read 15 questions to Christopher Bell, to which he answered individually.

Barbara Holstein stated the floor is open for nominations. Mr. Brislin nominated Chris Bell to fill the vacancy that we presently have. Tasha DeGeorge nominated Krista Mikulski. No other nominations. Floor is closed to nominations. Same policies have been followed the exact same way we did in the past. Mr. Garcia stated that each candidate will state the name of the candidate they are voting for.

Roll Call	Brislin	Campbell	Christmann	DeGeorge	Holstein	Zernhelt
<b>Candidate Name</b>	Chris Bell	Chris Bell	Krista Mikulski	Krista Mikulski	Chris Bell	Chris Bell

Ms. Holstein made a statement as herself as a board member and not as a representative of the whole board. This is not reflective of the entire board. For the record she believes that this vacancy would have been best served with the people's voice of 216 voters. However, due to the deadlock and the board we came to to an agreement with the County Superintendent as we were past the 65 days that she would allow us to have a 3rd opportunity for vacancy and that she would then allow except our appointment tonight as and will be her appointment as she legally has the right to appointment at this time because we did not fill the vacancy within the 65 days. This search yielded a new applicant with very strong ties to the community and experience with working with children and families from a variety of backgrounds. I am pleased to have found a 3rd applicant who came forward through this search of the 3rd time. However, I want to make it very clear that 216 voters should have been listened to the first time around.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

### **Motion to close the meeting at 7:47 p.m.**

Motion Michael Zernhelt      2nd Paul Brislin      Voice Vote: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,

*Carl Morelli*

CARL MORELLI