

**Montague Township Board of Education Meeting
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2022**

1. CALL TO ORDER at 6:33 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_	_____
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. APPEARANCE - 4th grade students read their narrative writings to the Board

7. 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 7:03 p.m.
 Motion Michael Zernhelt 2nd Paul Brislin Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to close Executive Session at 8:08 p.m.
 Motion Paul Brislin 2nd Michael Zernhelt Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at 8:08 p.m.
 Motion Tasha DeGeorge 2nd Danielle Christmann Voice Vote: All in Favor

8. CSA REPORT - James Andriac, Acting CSA - Announced the October students of the month. Monty's birthday is coming up. The Halloween dance and Halloween parade was a success. PTA is having a babysitting night for parents on December 2nd. Spoke about the PreK program. We are up almost 20 students from last school year. Dana Berry was going through grants and came upon a Preschool Extension grant so that we can open up a 5th class. We can extend our Pre K students up to 93 students. That will be paid through the grant.

9. SBA REPORT - Carl Morelli, BA -

- NJ Clean Energy Program - The NJ Board of Public Utilities announced additional funding is available for the installation of new HVAC systems to improve energy efficiency and provide cleaner air in our school. The NJSDA has \$75 million available and \$350 million for Regular operating Districts such as ours. I had the first introduction meeting with them last week and we are proceeding to put our plans together. This can be done without any additional burden on our taxpayers.
- Approval of Architectural Services - With the approval of our new architect we have begun the planning to update our long range facilities plan which was last done in 2020. Upon submission of this plan to the State, we can begin to start our long list of projects that require approval and permits. Currently we have 9 projects on our drawing board.
- Preschool Expansion Plan - We will submit our expansion plan for 2022-23 next week. Part of this plan is the expansion of our preschool program that is currently funded for a maximum of 56 students. Our enrollment has been steadily increasing and the projection is that we will be at our maximum of 56 students sometime this spring. The expansion will expand money per student that is coming in and will allow our Preschool program to grow. I will submit this next week.

10. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Barbara Holstein - I will be looking at the legislation trying to extend the school year to accommodate the COVID recovery learning loss. I will be looking at it because it could definitely have a big impact on a small district like us, financially and logistically. Will bring the information back to the next meeting and ask the other board members to make phone calls. Feels we did a good job having our summer program.

11. CORRESPONDENCE, if any - We did receive correspondence from one of our interested applicants in our vacancy spot and after talking with BOE attorney just want to make a statement that any time until our vacancy is filled any board member is able to make a nomination or try to see any of the persons interviewed. We did receive a correspondence from Frankford but it is vague from what it was addressing and we are considering it a solicitation.

14. FINANCE AND INSURANCE

Barbara Holstein made a motion to approve F-1 and F-2 together to expedite matters.

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge Seconded: Paul Brislin

F-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the October 13, 2022 through November 9, 2022 - Bill List is listed below:

Fund 10	\$ 71,390.14
Fund 11	\$ 644,961.74
Fund 12	\$ 664.28
Fund 20	\$ 67,213.11
Fund 60	\$ 18,475.70
Fund 61	\$ 2,150.50
Grand Total	\$804,855.47

F-2 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the submission of the FY 2023-2024 Preschool Expansion NFO Application to the NJ Department of Education Division of Early Childhood Department.

Discussion: Michael Zernhelt stated that he is on the bills list for F-1. Mr. Garcia advised him to recuse himself on F-1 and vote on F-2.

Roll Call	Brislin	Campbell	Christmann	DeGeorge	Holstein	Zernhelt	Total
YES	x	x	x	x	x	X -Recuses himself on F-1 and votes yes to F-2	5 - F-1 6 - F-2
NO							
ABSTAIN							
ABSENT							

15. PERSONNEL

Barabara Holstein made a motion to approve P-1 and P-2 together.

Moved: Michael Zernhelt Seconded: Andree Campbel

P-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve **CASEY LEVENS and CHANDLER SMITH**, as volleyball coaches with a \$1,000 stipend each per the MEA Agreement for the 2022-23 school year.

P-2 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education accepts the resignation of **Employee #27529312** effective January 3, 2023.

Discussion: Ms. Christmann asked when volleyball would start. Mr. Andriac said it is a winter sport and it will be starting probably the first week of December. Ms. Holstein stated that she is excited to see volleyball and that every agenda we get has a new club or activity and it is really refreshing and thanked Mr. Andriac and the staff for finding ways to improve everything for our students.

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

16. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Barbara Holstein made a motion to approve items BG-1 through BG-4

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge Seconded: Andree Campbell

BG-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan (CMP) and the Annual Maintenance Budget Amount Worksheet (Form M-1) in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26A for the 2022-2023 school year.

BG-2 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Student Council's Request for Use of Facilities or Grounds for the following: Cafeteria, gymnasium and bathroom on Friday, January, 27, 2023 from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for a Snowball Dance for grades 5-8 (with a snow date of February 3, 2023 - 4PM to 10PM).

BG-3 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Montague PTA's Request for Use of Facilities or Grounds for the following: Cafeteria, gymnasium and bathroom usage for their Parent's Night Out for PTA members on Friday, December 2, 2022, 7PM to 9PM (Rooms will need to be reserved at 6PM for set up until 10PM for clean up).

BG-4 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Montague PTA's Request for Use of Facilities or Grounds for the following: gymnasium and bathroom usage for the Book Fair on Thursday, December 8, 2022, 6PM to 9PM (this is during the evening parent-teacher conferences).

Discussion: Ms. Holstein stated that Mr. Morelli reviewed all the items with the Board and doesn't want the public to think they are not looking at anything but have all considered these items to be lumped together.

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

17. ADMINISTRATION

A-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approves the submission to the executive county Superintendent of the 2022-2023 NJQSAC Statement of Assurance and District Performance Review.

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge **Seconded:** Michael Zernhelt **Discussion:** Ms. Holstein stated that this is a preliminary review of the District office. This is a preliminary review. The County comes in spring time and gives us their measures of the District and that all becomes public. Mr. Andriac stated that this will be uploaded to the State on November 15 and the County will be coming in March and have the official QSAC review.

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

18. LIAISON REPORTS

- High Point - Tasha DeGeorge - High Point had their meeting on October 22, 2022. They recently had a college/military job fair. Their Kick for the Cure ladies soccer team event raised over \$6,000 for cancer awareness. The performing arts department presented A Few Good Men with our former student, Ben Smith was Lt. Colonel Jessup. They recently underwent a Civil Rights Compliance Review. Only one HS in the State of NJ for the Perkins Grant. Passed with flying colors. Parents' advisory meeting is November 15th at 7PM and the 8th grade tours are November 15th and 16th and December 3rd is the Snowball Dance.
- Montague PTA - Danielle Christmann - She was not able to attend the last meeting but asked for a copy of the agenda. Currently there are 89 members. Read off past events. Provided lunch for custodians. Purchased gift cards for IT, OT/PT appreciation days. Upcoming events Monty's Birthday and bookfair. They are having a winter theme spirit week, SweetHeart dance in February. Volunteers are needed. Vice President and Treasurer positions up for election in June. Next meeting is January 5, 2023.

- Sussex County Charter/Tech School - Andree Campbell - Next meeting on November 14th so the report will be at the next meeting.
- School Board Association - Barbara Holstein - Nothing to report. Due to scheduling has not been able to attend a meeting.

19. 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 8:31 p.m.

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

Motion to close Public Comment at 8:32 p.m.

Motion: Tasha DeGeorge 2nd: Danielle Christmann Voice Vote: All in Favor

20. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Tasha DeGeorge 2nd: Danielle Christmann Voice Vote: All in Favor

Time of Adjournment:8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Morelli

CARL MORELLI
Board Secretary