

**Montague Township Board of Education Meeting
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 26, 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	
Joseph Garcia, Esq.		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. PRESENTATION by Dawn Costello and Darrah Pinzone for the Weekend Bag Program.

7. 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 6:57 p.m.

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

Motion to close Executive Session at 7:51 p.m.

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

Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at 7:52 p.m.

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

8. CSA REPORT - Jim Andriac, Acting CSA - Halloween parade will be on Monday in the soccer field. If it rains it will be in the gymnasium and it will be 2 guardians per child. The last cross country meet is Thursday, October 27, 2022. We are starting a TREP\$ Program and will have a market place on December 8, 2022 for the students to sell their products. We are going to have the student council come down and do the flag salute and daily announcements in the morning and birthday wishes. Our playground was inspected and a couple of minor adjustments need to be made but other than that everything is safe and in good working order. A set of swings was removed because they were not safe. Thank you to Mr. Runne and Ms. Weiss for running the cross country program.

9. SBA REPORT - Carl Morelli, BA -

- The NJ Board of Public Utilities announced on September 30, 2022 that additional funding is available under the School and Small Business Stimulus Program for heating, ventilation and air conditioning projects in public schools. Following fiscal year 2023 budget approval, which allowed the board to make an addition \$63 million available for the installation of new HVAC systems to improve energy efficiency and provide cleaner air in schools. There are two district programs: 1) the School and Small Business Ventilation and Energy Efficiency Verification and Repair; and 2) the School and Small Business Non-Compliant Plumbing Fixture and Appliance Program. The first step to become part of this program was to complete and submit an intake form which I did. This can help our district save money, decrease energy consumption and improve overall learning and working environment for all our building occupants. Most importantly, all of this can be done without burdening our Montague taxpayers.
- RFP for Architectural Services - Tonight is a resolution to approve a new Architect. Upon approval we can move forward with the list of projects that require an Architect's involvement such as expanding our parking lot for additional staff and bus parking and a transportation office trailer. Creating a new Pre-K classroom area next our building which will allow us to use the current preschool classrooms to accommodate our new self-contained classrooms. The construction of a pole barn building to accommodate the storage of equipment and also the storage of gym equipment will allow us to use the current gym storage room as a much needed locker room. Expanding our entrance driveway to accommodate the traffic flow of drop off vehicles and buses.
- Septic Grinder Pump Replacement - This item deals with the replacement of one of our septic grinder pumps. It was brought to our attention that we installed 2 new pumps approximately 3 years ago and they should last for several years. Upon investigating it was determined that because of the unusual amount of items being flushed down our toilets, the pits that contain the pumps should be cleaned out periodically. To the best of my knowledge, this was not done so I implemented a schedule of having them cleaned every 3 months at a cost of approximately \$300.00 or \$1,200 per year versus replacing a pump which costs almost \$10,000.
- Grants - We received approval of both our IDEA Final Report Application and our ESSA Consolidated Expenditure Report and we are compliant.

10. BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT - Barbara Holstein said she met with the QSAC team. It needs to be submitted to the county by November 15, 2022. We are in the process of looking for the past QSAC that was submitted. Regarding transportation, our transportation department is first and foremost caring about the children and safety of the children going and coming to school. We are taking great measures as a board and administration to make sure there is accountability, safety of buses and drivers are fully credentialed. This is something that is very important to myself and I take it very seriously as a BOE member and as a member of the community. Be assured that students are our first priority for this BOE and the school district.

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 8:08 p.m.

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

Jim Ledonne, expressed concerns regarding the open seat and the two parties of interest. Feels that Jaime Johnson is the candidate that the BOE needs.

Eleanor Murphy, 15 Plaza Drive, Newton - Feels that Jaime Johnson is capable of being on the BOE.

Motion to close public comment at 8:12 p.m.

Motion Andree Campbell 2nd Michael Zernhelt Voice Vote: All in Favor

12. FINANCE

F-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the reimbursement of \$600.00 to Employee #67645861 for the cost of the Low Pressure Black Seal Online Course on July 26, 2022 and August 2, 2022.

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge Seconded: Paul Brislin

Discussion: Ms. Holstein is glad that we have a crew of people who are continuing to improve themselves and bring that added value to our school.

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

F-2 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the reimbursement of \$179.00 to Employee #79748562 for the cost of the ServSafe Manager Certification Course on April 14, 2022.

Moved: Andree Campbell Seconded: Danielle Christmann
Discussion: Ms. Holstein thanked the employee for taking the course.

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

13. PERSONNEL

P-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve Employee #35691807 request for intermittent unpaid leave of absence under the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge Seconded: Michael Zernhelt Discussion: None

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

P-2 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve **JESSICA COPPOLINO** as a TREP\$ Club Advisor with a \$1,000.00 stipend per the MEA Agreement for the 2022-23 school year..

Moved: Paul Brislin Seconded: Tasha DeGeorge
Discussion: Thank you Ms. Coppolino for stepping up. Mr. Andriac stated that this is the first year of doing TREP\$. There are over 60 students who signed up.

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

P-3 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the creation of the Crochet Club with **CLANCEY LANE** as Club Advisor for the 2022-23 school year.

Moved: Andree Campbell Seconded: Danielle Christmann

Discussion: Mr. Andriac stated that because of TREP\$ the students were getting the needles and yarn from Ms. Lane so she decided to start this club. Ms. Holstein thanked Ms. Lane for stepping up to be a club advisor. Ms. Holstein asked what is the difference between the club advisor and no stipend here. Mr. Andriac stated that the first year is a trial. Next year will be the first paid year. TREP\$ is different due to the size of the club and time involved. Ms. Christmann stated that the crochet club is only open to 4th graders and it is held during their recess.

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

14. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Discussion:

1. Additional metal trim work, roof restoration project by Weatherrite Solutions. Mr. Morelli stated that when the roof restoration project was approved it was approved with sections of the building having new metal gutters. In doing the original approval a year ago, it was never discussed what to do with the rest of the trim work to make it match. It is currently painted brown and does not match the rest of the building. Mr. Morelli presented a powerpoint presentation. We can paint it or replace it with metal. This is labor intensive. The added cost would be in the materials cost. Proposal from Weathertite solutions is \$52,000+. It is about a 21-23 day project. All the brown sections would be replaced. We would have to repaint it every 2 to 3 years which could add up. Ms. DeGeorge asked if it was more of a cosmetic or is it structurally. Ms. Holstein stated that the cost of labor is more than double of what the cost of the materials are. Ms. DeGeorge asked if we can get another estimate from another company. Mr. Morelli said that as a school district we are under prevailing wage which means it has to be done by an approved contractor from the State of New Jersey. Mr. Morelli will get another quote. Mr. Morelli stated that when we needed a new roof for the library, we called around quickly and the local roofer came in at about \$7,200 and we had to use a prevailing wage roofer and it came in at \$13,000. Ms. Holstein looked at the installer who is getting \$177 per hour and then there is a difficult access fall restriction surcharge of an additional \$5,000. Ms. Holstein loves the roof work that they have done. She just feels that this is a little too pricey for putting up gutters.

2. Aluminum window repair - upgrade balances and hardware on lower sash only by BRG Corporation. This was brought to Mr. Morelli's attention by David Miller, Facility Manager. The proposal is for \$28,917 to repair 153 windows and replace the balances in them. This price came from the EdData consortium at \$189 per unit. Mr. Zernhelt asked if it included the gym windows and Mr. Morelli said no, it is for the classroom windows. The windows are hard to open and lock. Ms. Holstein said that it is not easy to open them when she walked around the building. Happy that the a/c were taken out for the winter. Mr. Holstein asked if the windows are in good condition whereas they do not have to be replaced. They are as energy efficient to the standard when they were put in. Ms. Holstein asked what the NJ Clean Energy program can offer our school. The Clean Energy program gears more towards equipment. Ms. Holstein asked if the windows cause any health and safety issues. Mr. Morelli stated that we are not in violation regarding the windows they are just extremely hard to function properly. Ms. Holstein and Ms. Christmann suggested to go through each window and replace the ones that are not functioning. Mr. Zernhelt agreed with this. Ms. Holstein stated that the warranty isn't that long. One year warranty on hardware and labor. Mr. Morelli will find out what the hardware covers. Mr. Morelli will go back to the company.

3. RFP - Architectural Services - discussed in Executive session as advised by Board attorney since they are contractual and legal. This was discussed during executive session per Joseph Garcia, Esq.

BG-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve DMR Architects as our architect from October 27, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

Moved: Andree Campbell Seconded: Paul Brislin

Discussion: Ms. Holstein stated that she is glad that the BOE did the search for an architect and have done their due diligence on finding an architect.

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

15. TRANSPORTATION

T-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Resolution for participation in the Joint Transportation Agreement for **Special Education Transportation** with Sussex County Regional Cooperative for the 2022-2023 school year.

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge

Seconded: Michael Zernhelt

Discussion: None

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

T-2 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Resolution for participation in the Joint Transportation Agreement for **Public/Private/Charter/Choice School** Transportation with Sussex County Regional Cooperative for the 2022-2023 school year.

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge

Seconded: Barbara Holstein

Discussion: None

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

T-3 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Resolution for participation in the Joint Transportation Agreement for **Athletic and Field Trip Transportation** with Sussex County Regional Cooperative for the 2022-2023 school year.

Moved: Andree Campbell

Seconded: Paul Brislin

Discussion: Ms. Holstein asked if joining these cooperatives are we going to be going out with bids with our buses. Mr. Morelli stated that this is for special education. These are for special routes that our buses cannot do.

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

16. POLICY

PL-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Montague Township School District Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy for New Jersey Schools.

Moved: Danielle Christmann Seconded: Tasha DeGeorge Discussion: None

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

17. GRANTS - Back to BA report that all grants are up to date and compliant.

18. ADMINISTRATION

A-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Montague Township School Remote Plan for the 2022-23 school year.

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge Seconded: Danielle Christmann
Discussion: Ms. Holstein stated that they are approving the Remote Plan because it is required by the State. It is not an intention that we are going remote anytime soon.

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

A-2 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Montague Township School NJDOE School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act for the July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022 school year.

Moved: Paul Brislin Seconded: Andree Campbell Discussion: None

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

A-3 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklist - Statement of Assurance for the 2022-23 school year.

Moved: Andree Campbell Seconded: Danielle Christmann Discussion: Ms. Holstein said this is the first time that she is seeing the Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings. It is a very thorough review of our building.

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

A-4 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the 2022-2023 Annual Nursing Services Plan.

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge Seconded: Andree Campbell Discussion: Thank you to the Nurse Worzel for contributing to the nursing plan.

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

19. LIAISON REPORTS

- High Point - Tasha DeGeorge - Will report at the next meeting since the HP meeting is October 27, 2022. .
- Montague PTA - Danielle Christmann - nothing to report yet. The next PTA meeting is 11/3. Halloween dance is Friday, Oct. 28
- Sussex County Charter/Tech School - Andree Campbell - The August, September and October meetings were mostly business issues. There was discussion at the August meeting to bring lacrosse to the school. At the September meeting it was stated that the students have started their StartStrong Assessments. August enrollment was 215, September 229, October 221. Next meeting is November 14 at 5PM.
- School Board Association - Ms. Holstein hasn't made it to a meeting yet due to a work conflict. NJSBA just had their 3 day conference.

20. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - Ms. Campbell asked Mr. Andriac if he spoke to the Youngmans about the trees and he said yes. He is waiting to hear back from them as to what type of trees they want. Ms. Holstein suggested that something be posted on the website to give a little history regarding the trees.

21. 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 9:03 p.m.

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

Jaime Johnson, 337 New Road, Commended the Montague BOE for turning the transportation department around. Thanked the bus drivers for doing their jobs. Ran for the Montague BOE, lost by 13 votes. The voters have spoken and being the next highest voter getter she should have the opportunity to serve on the BOE.

Motion to close public comment at 9:05 p.m.

Motion Michael Zernhelt 2nd Andree Campbell Voice Vote: All in Favor

22. CANDIDATE INTERVIEW WITH JUSTINA MARCUSSEN - Carl Morelli, BA read 15 questions to Justina Marcussen, to which she answered individually.

23. 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 may or may not be taken. We will be discussing the board vacancy as per our board attorney.

Motion to open Executive Session at 9:25 p.m.

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

Motion to close Executive Session at 9:34 p.m.

Motion Tasha DeGeorge 2nd Andree Campbell Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at 9:34 p.m.

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

Paul Brislin asked that in order to consider each of the 3 candidates does each of them have to be nominated or are they automatically considered?

Mr. Morelli explained that in doing the role call, as he called each BOE member name, you would designate who you are voting for. There is a round of nominations first. Paul Brislin said he thinks we need clarification from Mr. Garcia. Joseph Garcia, Esq., joined the meeting via telephone. Mr. Brislin asked how each one is to be considered. Is it accurate to say that we cannot vote for a candidate if they are not nominated. Mr. Garcia stated that the BOE agreed to nominate however many candidates they wanted to nominate and then go around the table and call the roll the BOE member would say the name of the candidate they wanted. This is the way the bylaws technically say to do it. Ms. Holstein stated Mr.

Brislin’s question is referencing the initial nomination of the candidates. Mr. Brislin is asking that we put the slate of candidates up without a formal nomination from a BOE Member. He feels that all three (3) deserve to be considered even if they are not nominated. Per bylaws, a candidate needs to be nominated. Mr. Brislin stated that based on what Mr. Garcia just stated he is willing to nominate all three candidates. Ms. Holstein asked Mr. Garcia if this can be done. Mr. Garcia doesn’t believe there is any limitation on the number of candidates he can nominate. Ms. DeGeorge stated that she thinks we can make sure everyone gets a nomination and gets a chance. It gives everyone an equal opportunity. Mr. Garcia reviewed the bylaws and it doesn’t say there is a limitation. Ms. Holstein read the bylaws as well and it says with a roll call conducted for all candidates. Ms. Holstein is not opposed to Mr. Brislin’s recommendation. Mr. Garcia has no issue with Mr. Brislin nominating all three (3) candidates. Ms. Holstein asked Mr. Garcia if he has an issue with a statement being made before or after a vote by a board member. Mr. Garcia stated that if it is an individual statement do it in closed session but if it is a general statement no issue.

Mr. Morelli stated that the vote that will take place will be comprised of three (3) candidates - Justina Marcussen, Krista Mikulski and Jaime Johnson.

Roll Call	Brislin	Campbell	Christmann	DeGeorge	Holstein	Zernhelt
Candidate Name	Krista Mikulski	Jaime Johnson	Krista Mikulski	Krista Mikulski	Jaime Johnson	Jaime Johnson

Ms. Holstein stated that we have 35 more days to fill the seat. Ms. Holstein is standing behind sticking with the voters’ voice and the black and white record of the election results of April 2022.

Ms. Campbell agrees with Ms. Holstein in recognizing the voters’ voice and that is the way we should go.

24. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Barbara Holstein 2nd Tasha DeGeorge Voice Vote: All in Favor
 Time of Adjournment: 9:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Morelli

CARL MORELLI
 Board Secretary