

**Montague Township Board of Education Meeting
Workshop Action Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2023**

1. CALL TO ORDER at 6:32 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.

Ms. Holstein asked if any BOE member had any questions regarding agenda items that they need to discuss in Executive Session? All BOE members stated they had no questions therefore, move forward with CSA report and put Executive Session at end of meeting.

6. CSA REPORT - James Andriac, Acting CSA - The winter concert has been rescheduled for Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 7PM. We will now be providing a late bus for the High Point every day. One HIB report which was unfounded. Thanked Ms. Ortiz for attending the meeting.

7. SBA REPORT - Carl Morelli, SBA - Our architects, DMR Architects submitted our updated Long Range Facilities Plan to the State on January 5, 2023 and upon approval of plan it will be posted on our website. The architect is preparing our proposals for our pole barn, our site improvements which include widening the driveway entrance, extending bus parking, lane improvements for traffic circulation and additional parking and also the four classroom additions and our electrical service upgrade. The 2nd item is our LED lighting report. There is a proposal from Generation Services which is a company that comes through Ed Services. We have over 500 fixtures in the school which need to be upgraded. There are dark sections that need to be lit up. The total cost of the proposal is \$96,000 and change. Out of that amount our estimated rebates are about \$22,000 so that leaves us with a cost of about \$74,000. By doing this our annual energy and maintenance cost savings will be

approximately \$16,000 per year. If we had to put out of pocket the \$74,000 it could be recouped in approximately 4.6 years. Also looking into having this funded by one of the energy grants available. This is part of bringing our building into compliance for energy and cost savings. Every fixture would be changed to an LED one. Hallways would be brighter and the outside would be fully lit. This is being reviewed now by our architect. The lighting upgrade is one of the items on our Long Range Facility Plan. Last item is that we received our draft copy of the policies from Strauss Esmays. Some policies need questions answered as to directions we would like to take. After review by BOE members they can be approved. Barbara Holstein would like a PDF copy to be put on the website.

- 8. BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT** - Barbara Holstein stated that she attended the service of one of our former students who passed away. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers. Some of the news from Trenton is that we may be looking at a new Acting Commissioner in Trenton. Scores are down and accountability is basically zero. We are one of the only State that has not spent the majority of our COVID funds. Locally, we have a lot of new school boards that are in place because their elections were in November.
- 9. CORRESPONDENCE** - Letter from the Montague Seniors to Ms. Taylor and students thanking the bell choir for their performance. Ms. Holstein would like to see our seniors invited to be readers at our school and an outreach to our senior community.

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 December 14, 2022.

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge

Seconded: Paul Brislin

Roll Call	Brislin	Campbell	Christmann	DeGeorge	Holstein	Zernhelt	Total
YES	x	x	x	x	x	x	6
NO							
ABSTAIN							
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 6:45 p.m.

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

Motion to close Public Comment at 6:46 p.m.

Motion Tasha DeGeorge 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 Board Secretary's Report and the Treasurer of the School's Monies Report for the month of July 2022. They are both in agreement.

Moved: Paul Brislin

Seconded: Andree Campbell

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 Board Secretary's Report and the Treasurer of the School's Monies Report for the month of August 2022. They are both in agreement.

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge

Seconded: Andree Campbell

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

F-3 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Board Secretary's Report and the Treasurer of the School's Monies Report for the month of September 2022. They are both in agreement.

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge

Seconded: Barbara Holstein

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

F-4 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the December 15, 2022 through January 11, 2023 - Bill List listed below:

Fund 10	\$ 76,908.40
Fund 11	\$684,647.33
Fund 20	\$ 58,909.30
Fund 60	\$ 3,957.91
Fund 61	\$ 5,167.75
Grand Total	\$829,590.69

Moved: Paul Brislin

Seconded: Tasha DeGeorge

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

13. PERSONNEL -

BARBARA HOLSTEIN WOULD LIKE TO MOVE TO DO A CONSENT AGENDA FOR ITEMS P-1 THROUGH P-8

Michael Zernhelt stated he has no objections but just wanted to know what it means to be a Preschool Master Teacher. Mr. Andriac stated that it is the person who oversees the entire program. It is necessary and included for us to have our preschool grant.

Motion to move P-1 to P-8 by Andree Campbell, seconded by Paul Brislin

P-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education, accept the resignation of Employee #10870671 as part-time evening custodian effective January 20, 2023.

P-2 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education, approve **KAITLYN YAKKEY**, as part-time evening custodian, (Step C), pending background check, for the 2022-23 school year with a start date of January 23, 2023.

P-3 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education, approve **CHRISTOPHER GRENNILLE**, as substitute custodian, (Step F), pending background check, for the 2022-23 school year.

P-4 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education, approve **MICHAEL BUSSOW**, as substitute custodian, (Step F), pending background check, if needed, for the 2022-23 school year.

P-5 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education, approve **CAROL GEISEL**, as Preschool Teacher, (MA - Step A), pending background check, for the 2022-23 school year with a start date of February 6, 2023.

P-6 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education, approve **KELSEY HASHAGEN**, as Special Education Teacher, (BA - Step C), pending background check, for the 2022-23 school year with a start date of February 13, 2023.

P-7 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education, approve **ANGELA BELLIS**, as full time CST Secretary, (Step O), pending background check, for the 2022-23 school year with a start date of January 30, 2023.

P-8 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education, approve **KATLYN VALLIS**, as Preschool Master Teacher, without any increase to salary, for the 2022-2023 school year.

	Moved:		Seconded:		Discussion:			
Roll Call	Brislin	Campbell	Christmann	DeGeorge	Holstein	Zernhelt	Total	
YES	X	X	X	X	X	X	6	
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

14. LIAISON REPORTS

- High Point - Tasha DeGeorge - Their reorganization meeting was January 3, 2023. They did not have their regular meeting in December. They had their 8th grade open tour. The ice hockey team Kill Point won the Sussex Cup and the HP wrestling is holding a clothing drive on January 21st - 9AM to 12PM. Their next meeting is January 24, 2023.

Ms. Holstein asked Ms. DeGeorge if she had any thoughts on the late bus. Ms. DeGeorge said that she is glad they have it. Mr. Andriac said that moving forward it was better to have it everyday. Ms. DeGeorge is happy that the late bus dropped off on Clove Road and not in the parking lot.

Ms. Christmann spoke about HP's open house. Was very impressed with it.

- Montague PTA - Danielle Christmann - Was not able to make the meeting because it was the same night as HP's open house but received the minute. They're having a Sweetheart Dance on Feb. 10. Little Caesars fundraiser going on until February 9. They are looking for volunteers for committees. A make and take it will be done in the Spring as well as another book fair. Next meeting is March 2, 2023.
- Sussex County Charter/Tech School - Andree Campbell - December 2022 meeting. They had a successful open house. There has been a new landing paid to the website. The enrollment for the month of November 2022 was 220

- School Board Association - Barbara Holstein - has not been able to attend meetings. It coincides with our meeting night as well.

15. 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 7:03 p.m.

Motion Andree Campbel 2nd Paul Brislin Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to close Public Comment at 7:04 p.m.

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

16. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - Ms. Holstein just wanted to make an announcement that Mr. Bell is sitting in the audience and his fingerprints were done today and hopefully we will be swearing him in at our next meeting.

17. NEW BUSINESS - Michael Zernhelt made a motion to purchase chains for our buses. Seconded by Paul Brislin.

Discussion: Ms. Holstein stated that chains are apparatus that are attached to the rear axle of the bus and they are automatically flipped by a switch and they drop to clear the snow away from the tires as the tires are rolling along the road. Ms. Holstein doesn't know if the buses could be equipped with that so it is something we could talk to Krapf about. Ms. Holstein drives buses and would not be comfortable with our staff doing out and putting chains on the buses. Mr. Andriac said we would look into the pricing. Ms. Holstein stated that even with chains the buses still slide. Ms. Holstein will never support putting our children, staff and parents when there is a threat of serious inclement weather.

18. 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.

Motion to open Executive Session at 7:11 p.m.

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

Motion to close Executive Session at 7:56 p.m.

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

Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at 7:57 p.m.

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

19. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Barbara Holstein 2nd Tasha DeGeorge
Time of Adjournment: 7:57 p.m.

Voice Vote: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Morelli

CARL MORELLI, Board Secretary