

**Montague Township Board of Education Meeting  
Workshop Action Meeting Minutes  
May 10, 2023**

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

**2. ROLL CALL**

	Present	Absent
Barbara Holstein, President	x	
Paul Brislin, Vice President	x	
Christopher Bell	x	
Andree Campbell	x	
Danielle Christmann	x	
Tasha DeGeorge		X with notice
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. 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 6:32 p.m.  
 Motion Christopher Bell                      2nd Andree Campbell                      Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to close Executive Session at 8:04 p.m.  
 Motion Christopher Bell                      2nd Paul Brislin                      Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at 8:04 p.m.  
 Motion Danielle Christmann                      2nd Paul Brislin                      Voice Vote: All in Favor

**7. CSA REPORT - James Andriac, CSA -** stated that during the past few weeks we had the TREPS Marketplace, PTA Book Fair, STEM Night. Mr. Andriac thanked Ms. Tagliabue for doing TREPS, thanked Mr. Harris for STEM Night and thanked the PTA for all they did for Teacher Appreciation Week. Announced the winners of the Student Planners - Teagan Morrow, 4th grade (1st-5th grade) and Michelle Vidal-Mendez (6th-8th grade). Announced April Student of Month. On May 22, 2023 we will have the track championship at Wallkill Valley. The Color Run is on May 20, 2023 and it is open to everyone. Thanked Mr. Romano and Ms. Ortiz for starting up the NJSLA testing.

**8. SBA REPORT - Carl Morelli, SBA** - On tonight's agenda under BG-1 is the approval of the Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc., quote for \$27,942.76 for the installation of additional gutters, downspouts, extenders and other metals. This work would cover the remaining wood areas of the building that were not included in the original roof restoration. I am not sure why they were left out in the original project because I was not part of the district when that was negotiated. Had I been here, I would have included this additional work to finish the roof areas correctly. This was originally quoted at \$52,055.89 and I was able to negotiate this to a lower amount. Also, under BG-2 is the approval of the proposal from BRG Corporation ED Data Bid #10882 in the amount of \$28,917.00 for the aluminum window repair - upgrade balances and hardware on lower sash only to be paid from the CRRSA-ESSER II Grant which covered fresh air and classroom ventilation. The electrical service upgrade to the school has been submitted to the State for grant approval. We should hear back within 90 days. We are now in the design phase and have been assigned a design number 35402368 for electrical work at the school. We are projecting out to bid on this phase of the work once we receive NJDOES approval for the project. The preschool classroom addition educational specifications are being finalized and will be submitted to me for board signatures next week under the New Grant Initiative to the State for consideration. We have presented two options attached. Either option will work and does not have to be decided at this time.

- A. The option of adding the PK addition off the middle school section will minimize the impact of losing parking spaces and be less expensive to build.
- B. The option of adding the PK addition off of the PK wing will result in approximately 20 spaces lost and impact the site design. Those spaces would have to be reclaimed somewhere else on site. This would be a more expensive option.

Initial submission of the COPS School Violence Prevention Program. This is a competitive grant. Unlike our educational grants there we receive each year, a competitive grant is designed to award the districts with the best submissions. Part of the submission for this grant will be to upgrade and improve our classroom communications systems, which are currently an old clock and loudspeaker, with a new smartboard in each classroom. These can display not only emergency alerts and information but also daily activities, club information and also a morning TV program as part of a media club.

I would like to announce the official results of our last election which had 167 yes votes and 109 no votes and would like to personally thank all the voters, our mayor and township council members, our administration and staff for their support of our budget.

**9. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Barbara Holstein** - Wants to discuss Resolution and email from NJASBO regarding bus drivers. NJASBO is proposing and asking school board throughout the State to adopt a resolution that would support S3203 and A4805 which are 2 proposed legislation bills that would allow someone who does not have a CDL to operate a school vehicle transporting students (S-type vehicle, mini vans, envoys). There isn't one person in transportation that I have discussed this with who is for this. This is allowing someone to transport children on a regular operating license and it removes the background check, having an S-endorsement, the P-endorsement. They think it will help reduce bus driver shortage. This will not help reduce bus driver shortage. I went ahead and asked Mr. Garcia to draw up a resolution which will be introduced during new business. If you want to see the NJASBO (which is supporting it) we can get it printed up. Just wanted to give the Board members background.



**F-2 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the April 27, 2023 through May 10, 2023 - Bill List listed below:

Fund 10	\$ 11,960.98
Fund 11	\$367,386.58
Fund 20	\$ 31,845.41
Fund 61	\$ 1,961.50
Grand Total	\$413,154.47

Roll Call	Bell	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>					x			1

**13. PERSONNEL**

**P-1 BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve James Andriac as the Principal for the 2023-2024 school year and as ~~Acting Chief School Administrator~~ Acting Superintendent for the period of July 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023, per the approval by the County Superintendent and subject to approval of the Commissioner.

Moved: Christopher Bell                      Seconded: Andree Campbell                      Discussion: Mr. Bell asked Mr. Andriac if he accepts.

Roll Call	Bell	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>					x			

**P-2 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education offer employment contracts to the following employees ~~approve to offer employment~~ for the 2023-24SY ~~the following reappointments for the 2023-2024 school year:~~

**ADMINISTRATIVE & NON-ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF (Individual Contracts)**

Priscilla Ortiz, Vice Principal

Mark Romano, ~~IT Specialist/Project Manager~~ Director of Technology/Project Manager

David Miller, Director of School Facilities

Michael D'Amore, Security Guard and School Safety Specialist

James Cicalese, Transportation Coordinator

Melinda Tanzola, Administrative Assistant to School Business Administrator/Human Resources

Dana Berry, Administrative Assistant to the Board Secretary/HR/NJ Smart & Realtime Student Data Manager

Danielle Conklin, CSA Confidential Secretary/Food Service Coordinator/Public Relations

Lynn Frost, Administrative Assistant

Angel Bellis, Administrative Assistant

Rene Metzgar, Treasurer of School Monies

**Moved: Paul Brislin                      Seconded: Danielle Christmann                      Discussion: Mr. Bell asked if it was consent for P-2 to P-9 . Mr. Zernhelt asked if we were going to add the word Contract to the resolution. Ms. Holstein added contracts.**

Roll Call	Bell	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>					1			1

**Barbara Holstein asked if anyone was opposed to do a consent agenda for P-3 to P10? Motion Paul Brislin, seconded by Christopher Bell.**

**P-3 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the following reappointments for the 2023-2024 school year:

**TEACHERS (Collective Agreement) - TENURED**

Name & Position

Jennifer Battikha, Elementary School Teacher

Carl Ferriere, Elementary School Teacher/Elementary School Teacher with Mathematics Specialization in Grades 5-8

Chandler Howard (Smith), Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6/Teacher of Students with Disabilities

Lorie Jeskey, Elementary School Teacher/Teacher of English/Teacher of the Handicapped

Clancey Lane, Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6/Elementary School with Subject Matter Specialization:World Language/Spanish in Grades 5-8

Brenten Runne, Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6/Reading Specialist

Jody Taylor, Teacher of Music

Debra Vigorito, Elementary School Teacher

Michelle Visco, Elementary School Teacher

**P-4 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the following reappointments for the 2023-2024 school year:

**TEACHERS (Collective Agreement) - NON-TENURED**

**Name & Position**

Taylor Barbagallo, Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6/Teacher of Students with Disabilities

Bonnie Sue Bastin, Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6/Teacher of Students with Disabilities

Mary Blizzard, Speech/Language Pathologist

Ashley Bongiorno, Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6/Teacher of Students with Disabilities

Kelly Boyle, School Counselor

Kelsey Cole, Occupational Therapist

Jessica Coppolino, School Library Media Specialist/Teacher of English

Megan Fazzio, Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6/Teacher of Students with Disabilities

Samantha Frost, School Social Worker

Carol Geisel, Teacher of Preschool through Grade 4/Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6

Devyn Harrell, Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6/Teacher of Students with Disabilities

Michael Harris, Elementary School Teacher

Kelsey Hashagen, Elementary School Teacher Grades 1-6/Teacher of Students with Disabilities

Sheridan Kapuscinski, Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6/Teacher of Students with Disabilities

Korinn Loriz, Teacher of Preschool through Grade 3/Teacher of Students with Disabilities

Melissa Martinique, Teacher of Preschool through Grade 3/Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6/Teacher of Reading/Teacher of Students with Disabilities

Kerry McCormick, Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6

Melissa Neamand, Teacher of Art/Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6

Elizabeth Palazzo, Elementary School Teacher in Grades K-6/Teacher of Students with Disabilities

Darah Pinzone, School Counselor

Emily Schiabor, Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6/Elementary School with Subject Matter Specialization: Social Studies in Grades 5-8/Teacher of Students with Disabilities

Michael Spina, Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6/ Elementary School with Subject Matter Specialization: ELA in Grades 5-8

Scott Tanner, Teacher of Health and Physical Education

Emily Tattersall, Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6

Michele Ferentinos Tagliabue, Teacher of Students with Disabilities/Elementary School with Subject Matter Specialization: Language Arts/Literacy Specialization in Grades 5-8/Speech Language Specialist

Katlyn Vallis, Teacher Preschool through Grade 3

Rachel VanGorden, Teacher of Biological Science/Teacher of Agriculture

Jennifer Vankirk, Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant

Emily Weiss, Elementary School Teacher in Grades K-6

Allison Worzel, School Nurse

Alexandria Zeim, Elementary School Teacher Grades K-6

**P-5 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the following reappointments for the 2023-2024 school year:

**PRESCHOOL PARAPROFESSIONALS (Collective Agreement): PEA Grant**

Heather Beheran  
Andrea Conklin  
Aileen Donovan  
Kristen Fazzio  
Meghan Putera

**P-6 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the following reappointments for the 2023-2024 school year:

**NON-PRESCHOOL PARAPROFESSIONALS (Collective Agreement)**

Jessica Blake  
Tracy Edwards  
Amberlis Martinez  
Jacqueline Zinzi  
Andrea Bailey P/T  
Heather Braunius P/T  
Kaisha Schenk P/T

**P-7 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the following reappointments for the 2023-2024 school year:

**CUSTODIANS (Collective Agreement)**

Tabatha Lynn-Hall  
Hao La  
Daniel Dawson  
Jason Saavedra

**P-8 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the following reappointments for the 2023-2024 school year:

**BUS DRIVERS (Collective Agreement)**

Lyndsey Brigham  
 Gary Dennison  
 Kathleen Donovan  
 Ida Hickey

**P-9 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the following reappointment for the 2023-2024 school year:

**CAFETERIA STAFF (Collective Agreement)**

Tracy Greco, Cafeteria Manager  
 Kitty Wurst, Lunch Aide

**P-10 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the following substitutes for the 2023-2024 school year:

- Christopher Grennille
- Lisa Hoehn
- Ivette Manning
- Sabrina Morgan
- Michael Bussow (Substitute Custodian)
- Lisa Cirello (Substitute Nurse)

**Mr. Bell asked if we can simply say that we are offering a contract to the people currently employed. Ms. Holstein stated that she normally adds a welcome and we are very happy with the staff and everything that is going on in the school.**

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

**14. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

**Motion for consent agenda for BG-1 and BG-2 made by Christopher Bell and seconded by Andree Campbell. Ms. Holstein stated that Mr. Morelli discussed these during his SBA report. Glad to see that the costs came down almost half.**

**BG-1 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc., Quote #5049331 in the amount of \$27,942.76 for the installation of additional gutters, downspouts, extenders and other metals.

**BG-2 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the proposal BRG Corporation Ed Data Bid #10882 in the amount of \$28,917.00 for the aluminum window repair - upgrade balances and hardware on lower sash only to be paid from the CRRSA-ESSER II grant.

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

**15. ADMINISTRATION**

**Motion for Consent agenda for items A-1 through A-4 by Paul Brislin, seconded by Christopher Bell. Mr. Andriac publicly stated that June 9th is field day and it will be a half day. Also, June 15, June 16 and June 19 are being made half days.**

**A-1 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Board of Education approve the Tuition Contract for Educational Services between the Sussex County Educational Services Commission (Northern Hills Academy) and Board of Education of Montague Township for Student ID#13958990 with a start date of April 17, 2023 with a full tuition cost of \$52,375.00 (prorated) for the 2022-2023 school year (½ month April 2023 - \$2,618.75; May & June - \$5,237.50 per month).

**A-2 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve Friday, June 9, 2023 (Field Day) as an early dismissal with June 12, 2023 (Field Day rain date) being approved as an early dismissal contingent upon Field Day not being held on June 9, 2023 in the event it rains.

**A-3 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve Thursday, June 15, 2023, Friday, June 16, 2023 and Monday, June 19, 2023 as early dismissals.

**A-4 BE IT RESOLVED**, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the 2023-2024 school year calendar.

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

**16. LIAISON REPORTS** - Skipping liaison reports this meeting but Ms. Christmann did thank the PTA for purchasing yearbooks for all of the 8th graders.



**WHEREAS**, there exists a national shortage of qualified drivers possessing CDLs; and

**WHEREAS**, in response the New Jersey State Senate and State Assembly have introduced proposed legislation (S3203/A4835) that would remove requirements that school bus drivers in New Jersey maintain commercial driver’s licenses; and

**WHEREAS**, removal of those requirements would jeopardize the health, safety and well being of New Jersey students traveling on school buses, as well as the health, safety and well being of the general public.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Montague Township Board of Education, in the county of Sussex, calls upon the New Jersey State Legislature to vote against the aforementioned bill(s), and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Montague Township Board of Education, in the County of Sussex, urge the Governor to oppose this legislation, or to veto this legislation upon legislative approval; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Murphy, State Treasurer Muoio, Senate President Scutari, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Senator Steven Oroho, Assemblymen Parker Space and Harold Wirths, and the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials.

Moved: Paul Brislin

Seconded: Michael Zernhelt

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

**20. 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~~ will not be taken.

Ms. Holstein stated that we can end the zoom session now. No action will be taken after the session.

Motion to open Executive Session at 9:01 p.m.

Motion Michael Zernhelt

2nd Andree Campbell

Voice Vote: All in Favor

**21. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion Michael Zernhelt 2nd Andree Campbell

Voice Vote: All in Favor

Time of Adjournment: 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carl Morelli*

CARL MORELLI,  
Board Secretary