Montague Township Board of Education Meeting Regular Action Meeting Minutes May 24, 2023

1.	CALL	TO	ORDER	at	6:30	p.m
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2. ROLL CALL

	Present	Absent
Barbara Holstein, President	Х	
Michael Zernhelt, Vice President	X	
Christopher Bell	X	
Paul Brislin	X	
Andree Campbell	X (via zoom)	
Tasha DeGeorge	X	
Jaime Johnson	X	

Others Present:	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
James Andriac - Acting Superintendent	x	
Carl Morelli, SBA/BS	X	
Joseph Garcia, Esq. – Board Atty.	x via zoon	n

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 FFA Agriscience presentation Mr. Andriac thanked Ms. VanGorden and the FFA for setting up the planters outside with dirt and flowers. Ms. Holstein said they look beautiful and suggested that plaques be made to be put on them to say they are maintained by FFA.
- Ms. VanGorden gave a brief summary of the background information on the presenters who are giving presentations on their winning Agriscience projects. Three students presented their winning projects.

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 6:40 p.m.

Motion Christopher Bell 2nd Paul Brislin Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to close Executive Session at 7:03 p.m.

Motion Michael Zernhelt 2nd Christopher Bell Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Motion Barbara Holstein 2nd Michael Zernhelt Voice Vote: All in Favor

8. CSA REPORT - James Andriac, Acting Superintendent - Discussed before and aftercare for next year. There will absolutely be a before and aftercare. We are exploring a couple of different options which may allow us to keep it open longer (3 hrs instead of 2 hrs), different options that will bring STEM supplies into the building and from what he is looking at it may be cheaper. A definite answer will be available by the end of June beginning of July. Worst case scenario, we will go back to doing it inhouse. No matter what there will be some form of before and aftercare. Ms. Holstein discussed the aftercare program from years ago. There will be a discount for multiple children. There were 2 HIBs (one unfounded/one founded). Field Day is June 9th with a 1:05 dismissal with a rain day of June 12. 1:05 dismissal regardless for June 9 and only for June 12 if it is field day. Track County Championship was May 23, 2023. Our students did very well. Our 4th and 5th graders are competing against middle schoolers. Would love to get a track at some point on our lot. Ms. VanGorden's grant for Monty's Cafe (\$10,000) was awarded. Our State testing is finishing up. Thanked Ms. Ortiz and Mr. Romano for doing that. Graduation is Thursday, June 15. Preschool Graduation is Tuesday, June 13. Thursday, June 8 is our Junior Concert at 10:30 a.m. Spring Concert is June 1 at 7PM. Track Banquet is June 2 at 7PM and the PTA End of Year event is June 10 from 1PM to 4PM. Ms. Holstein asked if we can put these events on the website calendar. The Senior Citizens are doing a Senior Citizen Olympics and will be working with some of our 8th graders.

9. SBA REPORT - Carl Morelli, SBA -

1st Item - Financial Reports - On tonight's agenda under F-3 is the approval of the Board Secretary's Report and the Treasurer of the School's Monies Report for the month of April, 2023. As you might recall, these reports were several months behind last spring as we corrected issues with them. The guidelines allow for these reports to be approved within 60 days and we now have been averaging approval within 30 days.

2nd Item - Modular Classrooms - I am in the process of finalizing the modular classrooms that are needed to help with expanding our facility to meet growing demand. We are looking to have them in place and ready to go in August in time for the opening of school.

3rd Item - Long Range Facilities Plan Update - 1) The Pre-K classroom Addition Educational Specifications and drawings for the school have been submitted to the State for Grant approval. We should hear back within 90 days. We will go to bid on this project once we will receive NJDOE approval for the project. 2) Also being worked on is a new sign for the front of our building which if we were not located on a state highway, would require minimal approval. However, since we are located on route 206 we need Dept. of Transportation (DOT) approval and with the help of our architects, we will receive that

approval and move forward with that project. 3) The last item to report on is replacement of our storage garage with a new pole-barn. We have begun work on this project and I will be presenting design drawings and information on this at our next meeting.

Final Item - Air Purifier Units - We receive our delivery of air purifier units for our building. These units were placed in each classroom and other common areas. I had applied for this equipment that was free of charge to us as part of the Covid health crisis. I had been involved in these types of units in my previous school district and knew we did not have them. Upon contacting the program that handled this equipment, I was able to submit the paperwork to receive them. Once again, this program was at no cost to our district. The units cost approximately \$700.00 each and we received 26 units plus replacement filters. These units with filters are worth approximately \$20,000.00.

10. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Barbara Holstein - Mentioned to the BOE that tomorrow, May 25, 2023 is the Sussex County SBA Hybrid Meeting - Celebrations & County Teacher of the Year, no time listed. Attended the Roxbury BOE meeting as a public person and noted on their agenda that they voted to approve to support the NJASBO transportation matter. Ms. Holstein will be contacting as many school boards as possible to not support this action. NJASBO is not in the position of transportation.

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 7:20 p.m.

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

Motion to close Public Comment at 7:21 p.m.

Motion Barbara Holstein 2nd Christopher Bell Voice Vote: All in Favor

12. FINANCE

Barbara Holstein made a motion to approve items F-1 through F-3 in a consent agenda. Motion: Christopher Bell, seconded: Tasha DeGeorge

F-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the May 11, 2023 through May 24, 2023 - Bill List attached and listed below:

Fund 10	\$ 514,353.74
Fund 11	\$ 556,214.32
Fund 12	\$ 16,135.90
Fund 20	\$ 35,497.60
Fund 60	\$ 23,855.25
Fund 61	\$ 2,054.52
Grand Total	\$1,148,111.33

F-2 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve an agreement between Montague Township School District and PLC Associates, LLC in the amount of \$43,350.00 for the below professional development items:

Deliverable #1 Data Metrics: Data Triangle Additional Option: Support Staff Survey (Non-Instructional Additional Option: Community Engagement Survey	\$ 7,500.00 al) \$ 2,250.00 \$ 2,250.00
Deliverable #3 Data Workshops and Focus Forums	\$18,350.00
Deliverable #4 School Plan	\$13,000.00
Total	<u>\$43,350.00</u>

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 April, 2023. They are both in agreement.

Roll Call	Bell	Brislin	Campbell	DeGeorge	Holstein	Johnson	Zernhelt	Total
YES	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

13. PERSONNEL

Barbara Holstein made a motion to do a consent agenda vote on P-1 through P-9. Motion: Tasha DeGeorge, seconded: Andree Campbell.

P-1 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve James Andriac as the Acting Superintendent for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 per the approval by the County Superintendent.

P-2 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the following staff members as Extended School Year Teachers/Summer Learning Acceleration Program for the summer of 2023 according to the negotiated MEA hourly rate.

Ashley Bongiorno
Kelly Boyle - for a maximum of 20 days
Megan Fazzio
Samantha Frost
Kelsey Hashagen
Chandler Howard (Smith)
Lorie Jeskey
Kerry McCormick
Darah Pinzone - for a maximum of 20 days
Brent Runne

Michele Ferentinos Tagliabue Rachel VanGorden Jennifer Vankirk - for a maximum of 20 days Emily Weiss

SUBSTITUTES, if needed:

Bonnie Sue Bastin Aileen Donovan Michael Harris Sheridan Kapuscinski Clancey Lane Michael Spina Katlyn Vallis

P-3 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve KRISTEN FAZZIO, JACQUELINE ZINZI (RUIZ), ANDREA BAILEY (substitute) and JESSICA BLAKE (substitute) as Extended School Year Paraprofessionals for the summer of 2023 according to the negotiated MEA hourly rate.

P-4 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve **ALLISON WORZEL**, **SCHOOL NURSE** for the Extended School Year for the summer of 2023 according to the negotiated MEA hourly rate.

P-5 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve **ANDREA BAILEY**, **JESSICA BLAKE AND KRISTEN FAZZIO**, as Extended School Year **Bus Aides** for the summer of 2023 according to the negotiated MEA hourly rate.

P-6 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve **GARY DENNISON**, **LYNDSEY BRIGHAM AND KATHLEEN DONOVAN** as Extended School Year **Bus Drivers** for the summer of 2023 according to the negotiated MEA hourly rate.

P-7 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the 2023-2024 School Improvement Panel (ScIP) Members, required by the TeachNJ Act, as follows:

James Andriac, Principal/Acting Superintendent
Priscila Ortiz, Vice Principal
Meghan Fazzio - Preschool
Chandler Howard (Smith) and Debra Vigorito - K-2/Mentoring
Brent Runne and Emily Weiss - Grades 3-4
Jessica Coppolino - Middle School/Special Area
Lorie Jeskey - Middle School/Special Ed/MEA
Michelle Visco and Michele Ferentinos Tagliabue - Interventionist/MEA
Darah Pinzone and Kelly Boyle - Counselors

P-8 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve five (5) days at \$250.00 per diem, per member, not to exceed \$16,250.00, as per the MEA Agreement, during the summer of 2023 for each member listed below as part of the School Improvement Panel (ScIP) required by the TeachNJ Act.

James Andriac, Principal/Acting Superintendent
Priscila Ortiz, Vice Principal
Meghan Fazzio - Preschool
Chandler Howard (Smith) and Debra Vigorito - K-2/Mentoring
Brent Runne and Emily Weiss - Grades 3-4
Jessica Coppolino - Middle School/Special Area
Lorie Jeskey - Middle School/Special Ed/MEA
Michelle Visco and Michele Ferentinos Tagliabue - Interventionist/MEA
Darah Pinzone and Kelly Boyle - Counselors

P-9 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve tuition reimbursement to Employee #10870673 in the amount of \$3,939.00.

Ms. Holstein stated she is thrilled with the turn out and plans for the summer program and thanked everyone who stepped up to give our kids an excellent summer program.

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Roll Call	Bell	Brislin	Campbell	DeGeorge	Holstein	Johnson	Zernhelt	Total
YES	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

14. BUILDING AND GROUND

BG-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education the approve the following request for Use of Facilities for the following: Melissa Neamand, Art Teacher, Thursday, June 1, 2023 - 3:35 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Cafeteria for an Art Show preceding the Spring concert (hours include setup & clean up).

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge Seconded: Paul Brislin Discussion: Ms. DeGeorge stated it was a good idea and Ms. Holstein said she loved it and is excited to see the post office come alive in the cafeteria. Hoping to get a video of it up on the website so anyone who is not able to attend can see it. Mr. Andriac thanked Ms. Neamand for putting it together.

Roll Call	Bell	Brislin	Campbell	DeGeorge	Holstein	Johnson	Zernhelt	Total
YES	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

15. CURRICULUM

C-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the curriculums for Social Studies, ELA, Math and Science.

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge Seconded: Jaime Johnson Discussion: Mr. Andriac gave a brief overview of the Social Studies curriculum which was looked over very closely and keeping it aligned to the values at Montague. They have to be updated due to State standards. We as a school and as a Board can alter it a little. The board will be provided a copy of the curriculum through a google file. Ms. Holstein stated that the curriculums are online. Ms. Holstein asked if we are adopting new textbooks with this? Mr. Andriac stated no, it's really the information that should be covered in specific areas. The website has the current curriculums that we are approving tonight. If there are any issues we can address it at the next meeting.

Roll Call	Bell	Brislin	Campbell	DeGeorge	Holstein	Johnson	Zernhelt	Total
YES	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

16. ADMINISTRATION

A-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the following field trips:

DATE	GRADE	DESTINATION	соѕт
May 26, 2023	4th Grade	Pocono Environmental Education Center (P.E.E.C.)	Cost of Transportation only (Cost of field trip is \$832.00 and was paid by PEEC through a grant they received)
June 5, 2023	3rd Grade	Legoland	\$842.00 (plus cost of transportation)

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge Seconded: Jaime Johnson

Roll Call	Bell	Brislin	Campbell	DeGeorge	Holstein	Johnson	Zernhelt	Total
YES	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	7
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT								

17. 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 7:31 p.m.

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

Barbara Holstein asked Joseph Garcia, Esq., if she has to read the disclaimer above every time? Mr. Garcia recommended that it be read each time.

Motion to close Public Comment at 7:32 p.m.

Motion Barbara Holstein 2nd Christopher Bell Voice Vote: All in Favor

18. NEW BUSINESS - Christopher Bell suggested that a survey online for residents and encourage them to get feedback. Ms. DeGeorge asked how we can get emails? Ms. Holstein asked Mr. Garcia about sending an electronic survey to Montague residents only. It would be anonymous. Mr. Andriac stated that this is one reason why he opens the doors up an hour before the board meeting. Mr. Zernhelt suggested a service called EDDM (Every Door Direct Mail) through the USPS. Mr. Romano can set up a QR code and it could be on a mailer to every person in the town (zip code). Ms. DeGeorge stated with Survey Monkey you can set the link. Mr. Romano stated that the problem with the QR code is that some people don't know how to use it. Ms. DeGeorge asked how much it would cost to mail it? Mr. Andriac stated that our community should appreciate that our board is even suggesting this. Ms. Holstein stated that we are the most transparent and focused. Mr. Morelli stated that the biggest piece of feedback that he received was the wording of the question on the ballot. The way the question was worded seemed to confuse some people to vote Yes or No. Ms. DeGeorge suggested that we get parents involved in making homemade signs. Ms. Holstein stated that the vote turnout was low and we will have to look at next year. Ms. DeGeorge stated that the voting used to be in the gym. Ms. Holstein stated that we would have to close the school if the voting was at the school. When it was moved to Town Hall it had something to do with money. Mr. Zernhelt said the cost to mail would cost about \$56.00 to \$129.00 (not counting the printing). Will come back to this under old business at next meetina.

19. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Andree Campbell 2nd Michael Zernhelt Voice Vote: All in favor Time of Adjournment: 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Morelli

CARL MORELLI, Board Secretary