

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

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

**2. ROLL CALL**

|                                  | Present      | Absent |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------|
| Barbara Holstein, President      | X            |        |
| 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 zoom    | _____         |

**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.



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                      2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Brislin                      Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to close Public Comment at 7:21 p.m.  
 Motion Barbara Holstein                      2<sup>nd</sup> 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                  | \$ 7,500.00            |
| Additional Option: Support Staff Survey (Non-Instructional) | \$ 2,250.00            |
| Additional Option: Community Engagement Survey              | \$ 2,250.00            |
| <br>Deliverable #3 Data Workshops and Focus Forums          | <br>\$18,350.00        |
| <br>Deliverable #4 School Plan                              | <br>\$13,000.00        |
| <br>Total   | <br><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       | x    | x       | x        | x        | x        | x       | x        | 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.**

| Roll Call      | Bell | Brislin | Campbell | DeGeorge | Holstein | Johnson | Zernhelt | Total |
|----------------|------|---------|----------|----------|----------|---------|----------|-------|
| <b>YES</b>     | x    | x       | x        | x        | x        | x       | x        | 7     |
| <b>NO</b>      |      |         |          |          |          |         |          |       |
| <b>ABSTAIN</b> |      |         |          |          |          |         |          |       |
| <b>ABSENT</b>  |      |         |          |          |          |         |          |       |

**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 |
|----------------|------|---------|----------|----------|----------|---------|----------|-------|
| <b>YES</b>     | x    | x       | x        | x        | x        | x       | x        | 7     |
| <b>NO</b>      |      |         |          |          |          |         |          |       |
| <b>ABSTAIN</b> |      |         |          |          |          |         |          |       |
| <b>ABSENT</b>  |      |         |          |          |          |         |          |       |

## 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       | x    | x       | x        | x        | x        | x       | x        | 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                                      | COST   |
|--------------|-----------|--|--|
| May 26, 2023 | 4th Grade | Pocono Environmental Education Center (P.E.E.C.) | Cost of Transportation only<br><br>(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       | x    | x       | x        | x        | x        | x       | x        | 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

2<sup>nd</sup> 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

2<sup>nd</sup> 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 meeting.

## 19. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Andree Campbell 2<sup>nd</sup> Michael Zernhelt

Voice Vote: All in favor

Time of Adjournment: 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carl Morelli*

CARL MORELLI,  
Board Secretary