

**Montague Township Board of Education Meeting
Regular Action Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2024**

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

2.

	Present	Absent
Barbara Holstein, President	x	
Michael Zernhelt, Vice President	x	
Christopher Bell	x	
Paul Brislin	x	
Andree Campbell	x	
Tasha DeGeorge	x	
Jaime Johnson	x	

3. ROLL CALL

Others Present:	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
James Andriac - Acting Superintendent	_x_	_____
Michael Bussow, SBA/BS	_x_	_____
Joseph Garcia, Esq. – Board Atty.	_x_	_____

4. FLAG SALUTE - FOLLOWED BY A MOMENT OF SILENCE OR PRAYER

5. 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.

6. 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.

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 6:32 p.m.
 Motion Andree Campbell 2nd Paul Brislin Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to close Executive Session at 7:13 p.m.
 Motion Paul Brislin 2nd Christopher Bell Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to reopen Regular Meeting at 7:13 p.m.
 Motion Andree Campbell 2nd Tasha DeGeorge Voice Vote: All in Favor

8. **CSA REPORT - James Andriac, Acting Superintendent** - Monday, January 15, 2024 is an inservice day for staff. No school for students. Thanked the Montague PTA for sponsoring a mobile planetarium assembly for all students at the school on Thursday, January 4, 2024. It was a really cool event. On Wednesday, January 24, 2024, the Optical Academy - Glasses to Classes will be at the school to provide eye exams to all students. Our 5th to 8th grade theater club will be having their performance on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 5PM. Winter Basketball has started for 4th through 8th graders. Our first tentative basketball game against Andover Township is scheduled for January 30, 2024. We have a Cornhole Family Event scheduled for February 16, 2024 at 6PM in the gym. It is for all Montague residents. We had one founded HIB in the month of December. Mr. Andriac thanked the maintenance crew for coming in on Sunday for having the school ready for Monday after Sunday's snowstorm.
9. **SBA REPORT - Michael Bussow, SBA** - We are moving ahead on facility projects. Tomorrow the Architects and Engineer will be presenting to the Township Land Use Board for the parking lot improvements. The LED exterior lighting has been completed. We have a couple of classrooms that will be completed next week. We have preliminary engineer reports for the electrical upgrades and that is going to come in a little bit better than we anticipated because of the improvements from the LED lighting which will require less electric load than originally anticipated. Moving forward also we are getting some snow maintenance equipment and a shed that will be delivered for storage which will help clear the way for the pole barn to be constructed for the maintenance area. In two weeks we have the mid-year budget review meeting and we are getting everything ready for that.
10. **BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Barbara Holstein** - Listened to the Bell Choir on WSUS and saw them at Town Hall. Excited for basketball and happy to see our sports growing.

11. 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 13, 2023.

Moved: Christopher Bell

Seconded: Tasha DeGeorge

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

12. 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 7:18 p.m.

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

Motion to close Public Comment at 7:19 p.m.

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

13. FINANCE

MOTION MADE BY BARBARA HOLSTEIN TO DO CONSENT AGENDA FOR ITEMS F1 THROUGH F-4

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge Seconded: Jaime Johnson

Discussion: Barbara Holstein asked Michael Bussow in reference to F-3 for moving the money to the Homeless Reserve, was it part of the audit? Mr. Bussow stated that it came up as a State recommendation just to hold a slightly larger part of the grant in reserve for homeless situations. Ms. Holstein asked if it covers McKinney Vento and Mr. Bussow said yes, it does. Ms. Holstein explained that McKinney Vento is a federal requirement that should a child become homeless and their last domicile is Montague that no matter where they are we must transport them to Montague. For example, if the child has found a temporary domicile in Dover, we would have to transport them to Montague from Dover.

F-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the December 14, 2023 through January 10, 2024 - Bill List below:

Fund 10	\$ 50,681.91
Fund 11	\$749,223.39
Fund 12	\$ 15,825.00
Fund 20	\$128,366.97
Fund 60	\$ 17,297.69
Fund 61	\$ 12.50
Fund 95	\$ 1,089.00
Grand Total	\$962,496.46

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 School Monies Report for the Month of November 2023 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(C)3 and 4.

F-3 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the amendment to the ESEA application for FY2024 allowing for the Homeless Reserve to conform with the State formula.

F-4 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the transfers adjustments as of December 31, 2023, (see attached).

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

14. PERSONNEL

P-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the termination of **Employee #10000** in accordance with the arbitrator ruling.

Moved: Barbara Holstein Seconded: Christopher Bell

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

P-2 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve tuition reimbursement to Employee #10870685 in the amount of \$2,468.25.

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge Seconded: Barbara Holstein

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

P-3 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve **Employee #10870702** maternity leave as of March 29, 2024 through June 30, 2024.

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge Seconded: Andree Campbell

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

P-4 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve **Employee #10870598** maternity leave as of May 6, 2024 through June 30, 2024.

Moved: Paul Brislin Seconded: Christopher Bell

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

15. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

BG-1 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve **DARAH PINZONE, GUIDANCE COUNSELOR and THE CENTER FOR PREVENTION and COUNSELING'S** Request for Use of Facilities or Grounds for the following:

USE/PURPOSE	ROOMS	DATE	TIME
Family Fun Night - Developmental Asset Framework Workshop (dinner included)	Gym, Cafeteria & Bathrooms	Thurs., Feb. 22, 2024	6:00PM to 7:30PM

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge **Seconded: Andree Campbell**

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 cost of providing home instruction for Student ID 100375 in accord with Policy No. 2481

Moved: Tasha DeGeorge **Seconded: Andree Campbell**

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

A-2 BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the Preschool Field Trip to Light of Up the Spectrum Inclusion Center on February 23, 2024 at a cost of \$1,500.00 (this will be paid through the Preschool grant).

Moved: Paul Brislin **Seconded: Tasha DeGeorge**

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

17. LIAISON REPORTS

- High Point - Tasha DeGeorge - January 11 was the 8th Grade open house. Saturday, January 13th is the Pretty in Pink Girl's basketball game
- Montague PTA - Michael Zernhelt - Planetarium Assembly. Gertrude Hawk Fundraiser, 1/30 meeting, 2/9 Sweetheart Dance, 2/23 Family Fitness night
- Sussex County Charter/Tech School - Andree Campbell - No Report
- School Board Association - Barbara Holstein - Strauss Esmay

18. 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 7:33 p.m.
 Motion Paul Brislin 2nd Michael Zernhelt Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion to close Public Comment at 7:34 p.m.
 Motion Tasha DeGeorge 2nd Paul Brislin Voice Vote: All in Favor

19. NEW BUSINESS

BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, that the Montague Township Board of Education approve the creation of the Minecraft Club with Michael Harris as the Club Advisor for the 2023-2024 school year.

Moved: Andree Campbell Seconded: Michael Zernhelt Discussion: Mr. Andriac stated that Mr. Harris our STEM teacher started a Minecraft club and all clubs have to be Board approved. Mr. Zernhelt explained that Minecraft is a game where you can build different structures, work on technical skills and eye and hand coordination. Mr. Andriac stated that they also work on coding too. Mr. Bell asked what grades it is used for. Mr. Zernhelt stated that according to the paper it is for grades 3rd through 6th. Mr. Romano, our IT Tech, stated that he purchased the licensing for it. No one from the outside can access it in the school. It is confined just to Montague School. Ms. Holstein asked if Mr. Harris is going to speak to the kids about limiting their time and their whole world doesn't become Minecraft. She is not opposed to Minecraft. She is opposed to Minecraft addiction. Mr. Andriac stated that we can have him speak to the kids about that. Ms. Holstein just wants it to be introduced in a healthy way. Mr. Andriac stated that they are actually learning skills. Ms. DeGeorge stated that they actually hire people that are very good at coding and videogames as it is a skill. Ms. Holstein stated that she just wants to make sure that we are taking precaution against exposure to the outside internet and their Minecraft activity time. Mr. Bell asked if parents had to sign a permission slip and Mr. Andriac stated yes. Mr. Brislin wanted to know why the 7th and 8th graders were excluded. Mr. Andriac stated that we only got licenses for only 20 participants. We will probably open it up to more classes after this class. Ms. DeGeorge said so we can probably do it in waves. Mr. Zernhelt said 7th and 8th graders probably are not interested in it. Ms. Holstein said that she likes we are targeting 3rd through 6th because we offer there is a lot for the older kids already.

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

20. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Barbara Holstein 2nd Tasha DeGeorge
Time of Adjournment: 7:42 p.m.

Voice Vote: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Berry

DANA BERRY
Administrative Assistant to the Board Secretary

Next Meeting - January 24, 2024 - 7PM- Special Meeting for Audit Presentation & Ethics Training only