

**Montague Board of Education
Regular Meeting
November 20, 2013**

Call to Order/ Flag Salute/Roll Call

Board Members	Present	Absent
Beverly Borrego	X	
Thomas Bolen III	X	
Christine Bisl	X	
George Gelderman	X	
Barbara Holstein	X	
James Marion	X	
Adrienne Raefski	X	

Others Present:

Janice L. Hodge, Chief School Administrator/Principal
John W. Waycie, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Erin Callahan Esq., Board Attorney

In accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act, a legal notice of this meeting has been posted on the official bulletin board at the school and advertised in the New Jersey Herald.”

Presentation: “Fall Fun” - Second Grade Team

Superintendent’s Report:

Thanked second graders for their presentation.

Mrs. Hodge made following statement concerning Mr. Finnegan:

On November 17, 2013, our Montague School family experienced a tragic loss with the sudden death of one of our faculty, Mr. Don Finnegan. We are all deeply saddened by this loss and as a Montague School family, we will work together to heal through the grieving process.

Our goal on Monday was to maintain the school schedule that day and through this week to provide structure and stability for students, faculty and staff. Our crisis management team of counselors was in place to assist the students when they arrived at school on Monday. In addition, the counselors have been available all week on an as needed basis for staff, students and parents. The faculty and staff have shown remarkable dedication and strength supporting not only the students but each other through this week; and I thank each and every one of them.

Mr. Finnegan dedicated the past 21 years to the children of Montague teaching 4th grade and technology. In 2004, Mr. Finnegan was one of the first two teachers at MES to achieve National Board Certification. As a NBCT, Mr. Finnegan mentored other staff toward that goal as well as mentoring novice teachers through New Jersey’s

provisional teacher training programs. He was a member of our leadership team and our Technology Coordinator. He worked with our PTA to make the iPad cart dream a reality. Mr. Finnegan was not only a 4th grade teacher but also a teacher mentor, a colleague and friend. He is missed.

Mrs. Hodge congratulated the students, faculty and staff for meeting all targets in the recent 2013 testing, and noted that 100% of Montague sixth graders were proficient or advanced in math.

Old Business: Ms. Borrego stated that a response to the proposed transition agreement with Port Jervis was received and would be reviewed in Executive Session.

New Business:

Approval of Minutes

**October 30, 2013- Regular Meeting
October 30, 2013- Executive Session Meeting
November 11, 2013- Special Meeting
November 11, 2013- Executive Meeting**

Motion by Ms. Holstein, Mr. Gelderman
All in Favor
Motion Carried

Open to Public (Agenda Items Only)

During this portion of the meeting, the residents are invited to address the Board with any questions, comments or concerns that may be in respect to the operation of their school.

Motion by Mr. Marion, seconded by Ms. Holstein, to open public comment at 7:20 p.m.
All in Favor
Motion Carried

Mr. Mannion stated that his son excelled after having Mr. Finnegan as his teacher.

Ms. Ofenloch had questions about AD 1 and AD 5

Mrs. Osborne had questions about AD 5

Mr. Mannion stated that all the Board should be aware that all the “t’s” need to be crossed

Motion by Ms. Holstein, seconded by Ms. Raefski, to close public comment at 7:30 p.m.
All in Favor
Motion Carried

Administration

AD 1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the submission Of the Article 16 Maintenance of Agreement Annual Addendum with Law Enforcement as required by the New Jersey Department of Education.

AD 2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the 2013-2014 School Year Contract (NB) with Sussex Wantage Regional school District at an estimated cost of \$29,570 plus related services.

AD 3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the Five Year Curriculum Review.

ATTACHMENT AD- 3

AD 4. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of approve the First reading of the revised Bylaws-Policies and Regulations.

ATTACHMENT AD- 4

Motion by Ms. Holstein, seconded by Mrs. Bisl to approve AD 1 thru AD 4,
Vote 7-0
Motion Carried

AD 5. RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING CERTAIN ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH A SCHOOL FACILITIES PROJECT TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS AT A BOND REFERENDUM TO BE HELD JANUARY 28, 2014

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Township of Montague in the County of Sussex, New Jersey (the "Board"), in the furtherance of its educational goals and constitutional duties to provide a thorough and efficient education seeks to submit a project to the voters which project consists of the expansion and renovation of the School to accommodate the School District's middle school students (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Board now seeks to take the initial steps in order to conduct a bond referendum on January 28, 2014;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY, as follows:

Section 1. The Board hereby authorizes and directs the Board President, the Superintendent, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Parette Somjen, Architect and Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, Bond Counsel, as applicable, to take all action required to preserve the opportunity to present the Project to the voters via a

bond referendum at a Special School District Election to be held on January 28, 2014 including the providing notice to the appropriate election officials.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion by Ms. Holstein, seconded by Mrs. Bisl
Vote 7-0
Motion Carried

Personnel

P1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the travel and related expense reimbursement for the personnel as indicated on the November 20, 2013 travel/reimbursement form.

ATTACHMENT P-1

Motion by Mr. Bolen, seconded by Ms. Holstein
Vote 7-0
Motion Carried

BASED UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

Finance

FI 1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education accept the School Treasurer's Financial Report for the month of September 2013 (FY2014).

ATTACHMENT FI 1

FI 2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education accept the Board Secretary's Financial Report for the month of September 2013 (FY2014).

ATTACHMENT FI 2

FI 3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the November 20, 2013 Bill List attached and listed below:

	<u>Check Numbers</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Regular Bill List	#A19863-#A20015	\$304,733.83

ATTACHMENT FI 3

FI 4. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education certifies that pursuant to NJAC 6A: 23-16.10 (c), as of October 31, 2013 the appropriations section of the budget did not reflect any over expenditures in any of the major accounts or funds, and based upon the appropriation balances reflected and the advice of district officials, we have no reason to doubt that the district has sufficient funds available to meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Motion by Mr. Gelderman, seconded by Ms. Holstein
Vote 7-0
Motion Carried

Building, Grounds and Transportation

BGT 1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the application for use of school facilities made by the following groups/organizations listed below:

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>PURPOSE/ROOM</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Montague Recreation	Gymnasium	Thursdays starting Jan 16, 2014 February 27, 2014 7PM-9PM

Please Note: This approval is to authorize use of the facilities to a specific group/organization for the purpose indicated above and in no way burdens the Montague School or Board of Education with the responsibility of notification of any cancellations for whatever reason. Notification of cancellation or adjustment to the dates indicated is the sole responsibility of the Group/Organization named above.

Motion by Mr. Bolen, seconded by Mr. Marion
All in Favor
Motion Carried

Open to Public (Any Items)

During this portion of the meeting, the residents are invited to address the Board with any questions, comments or concerns that may be in respect to the operation of their school.

Motion by Ms. Holstein, seconded by Mr. Bolen, to open public comment at 7:40 p.m.
All in Favor
Motion Carried

Ms. Ofenloch- stated she was confused about Board discussion
Mr. Mannion- stated that microphones should be used at all meetings
Mr. Nicolette- that all monetary projections should be available to the public,
the Board has a fiduciary responsibility to provide all information
Mr. Spinapolis- building must be to state code, all costs need to be considered
Mrs. DeGeorge- stated the budget and referendum are two different things
Mr. Mannion- we need 60 days to consider
Ms. Ofenloch- why are you doing this before ne Board take seats
Ms. Osborne- stated cost of bus routes should be obtainable from Co-op
Mr. Mannion- Port Jervis is not “broken”, rescind contract

Motion by Ms. Raefski, seconded by Ms. Holstein, to close public comment at 8:12 p.m.
All in Favor
Motion Carried

Executive Session

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education recess and proceed to Executive Session to review legal matters.

Motion to open Executive Session at 8:12 p.m.

Motion by Ms. Raefski, seconded by Mr. Bolen
All in Favor
Motion Carried

Motion to close Executive Session at 9:06 p.m.

Motion by Ms. Holstein, seconded by Ms. Raefski
All in Favor
Motion Carried

Motion to resume Regular meeting Agenda at 9:06 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Marion, seconded by Ms. Holstein
All in Favor
Motion Carried

P 2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve employment of William Jeskey as Lead Custodian at an annual salary of \$48,310 effective November 21, 2013.

P 3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve employment of Shannon Meincke at an annual salary of \$52,340 (Step 2-MA) effective November 21, 2013.

P 4. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve employment of Jennifer Barcza at an annual salary of \$50,640 (Step 3-BA) effective November 21, 2013.

Motion by Mr. Marion, seconded by Ms. Holstein
Vote 7-0
Motion Carried

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve a letter be sent to Governor Christie requesting any additional funding that might be available for the Middle School.

Motion by Ms. Holstein, seconded by Mr. Gelderman
Vote 7-0
Motion Carried

Ms. Borrego made the following comment: As previously indicated, Port Jervis has submitted a preliminary response to the Board's proposed transition plan. Port Jervis has expressed that it is not interested in entering into a transition plan which provides Montague students the choice to continue being educated in either Port Jervis or elsewhere for high school. Additionally, Port Jervis is not interested in a school selection provision based upon a student's siblings' attendance at Port Jervis. The Board is going to request port Jervis to reconsider their position on the school choice and school selection based upon siblings attendance provisions.

In response to earlier request, Ms. Borrego made a statement that any information available concerning Middle School cost would be made as soon as possible, but could not commit to a thirty day window prior to referendum.

Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Holstein, seconded by Mr. Gelderman to adjourn meeting at 9:10 p.m.
All in Favor
Motion Carried