

**Montague Board of Education Meeting  
Special Meeting  
September 9, 2015**

**Call to Order**

**Roll Call**

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Tacia Johnson	X	
Gayle Andriac	X	
Tom Bolen	X	
Diane Cole	X	
George Gelderman	X	
Sally Kurtzman	X	
Debra Osborne	X	

Others Present:

Janice L. Hodge, Chief School Administrator/Principal  
Gary Kraemer, Esq., Interim Board Attorney  
Daniel Perez, Esq., Special Counsel

**Flag Salute**

**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 Middletown Times Herald Record.**

Please note, the school's anti-bullying policy and how it applies to all; Board Members, Administration, Teachers, volunteers, parents, and members of the community. We are all to display behavior for the children of our community, so they can learn by example: not harass, intimidate, or bully others, either in person or writing, inclusive of via social media. It was brought to the attention of the Board and Administration, that just prior to a meeting earlier this year, as well as during the meeting, statements were made on social media by those in attendance at the meeting, which not only included insinuations and threats of violence which were both harassing, intimidating, and of course forms of bullying, but these comments were also supported by others in attendance. Therefore, as a safety precaution for the Board Members, Administration, public and students, the presence of the Constable has been requested at the meetings until these threats cease to exist.

**Open to Public (Any Items)**

As per NJSBA, Board of Education meetings are "a meeting in public, not a meeting of the public. Many people especially parents and community members, misunderstand the nature of a school board meeting. School boards provide leadership for what are typically multi-million dollar corporations. The board has important work to accomplish. And, to do that work, the board needs to be fully engaged around the table. The Open Meetings Act requires that public business be done in public, and that citizens have opportunity to observe, and comment, at every meeting."

Additionally, as per NJS 2C:33-8, 10:4-12, and as adopted by Montague's Board of Education in Bylaw 0167, please remember the public participation shall be governed by the following rules:

1. A participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface - by an announcement of his/her name, place of residence, and group affiliation if appropriate;
2. Each statement by a participant shall be limited to 3 minute duration
3. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard;

**4. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board Members individually;**

**5. The presiding officer may:**

**a. Interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;**

**b. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;**

**c. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;**

**d. Call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action; and**

**e. Waive these rules when necessary for the protection of privacy or the efficient administration of the Board's business.**

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

**Motion to open public comment at 7:08 p.m.**

Motion by Mr. Gelderman, seconded by Mrs. Kurtzman

All in Favor

Motion Carried

Mr. Dunn- suit against High point is waste of money, maybe rescind suit

Mr. Mannion- real waste of money two referendums

Ms. Campbell- talked about sports for this school, why can't we have them, lawsuits for 12 kids

Ms. Mikulski- why sport canned?

Mr. Deal-hate to see litigation

Ms. Bisl- few years ago music/art on chopping block, now sports

Ms. Hotalen- parents paid for private schools, they might want to be reimburse

Mrs. Olenick- I have done so much research, Commissioner doesn't have to follow law, sports should be 5th-7th, dual send/receive is way to go

Ms. Dykstra(student)- worse year of my life at High Point

Mr. McCallum- litigation will cost us, threatened lawsuit by parents to have kids finish where they started

Mr. Meincke- proud member of MES staff, taxpayer, no children, no stake in PJ/HP, stake is my tax money, 5 people left staff-not replaced- we provided sports and you won't fund

Mr. Spinapolice- taxpayer, concerned citizen, High Point contract flawed, former Board dropped ball

Mrs. Blackburn- agree with Mr. McCallum

Mr. Biggs- Kids not considered from beginning, go back the way it was

Mrs. Biggs- first transition plan cared about kids, former Board cared, wanted best, choice process

Mrs. Brauchle- thank you MES for wonderful education, were prepared but not in sports, now sports off table, transition plan has fallen by the wayside

Mrs. Spinapolice- my ancestors are from Montague, bus to Port Jervis kids are standing, consider all Children, two attorneys because previous Board got us into this mess

Mr. Dunn- consider facts/children, previous Board did care

Mr. Mannion- previous Board should have had a vote about severing relationship

Ms. Hickey- Port busses are full, Port Middle School was okay, community service everywhere

Mrs. Dykstra- doesn't my kid matter, her grades at High point didn't suffer

Mrs. Biggs- son's friend moved to town from DV District hoping he could go to Port, but went to High Point didn't like it and moved back

Ms. Dykstra (student)- High Point told her she needed therapy

Mrs. Spinapolice- is there an athletic plan here

Mrs. Olenick – earlier 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade survey skewed, sports need numbers you don't have them

Ms. Campbell- not right to bash out Board, parents wanted New Jersey education  
Mr. Spinapolice- insulted by previous comment  
Mr. Marion- as previous Board member, enrollment/tuition/etc. reviewed, we did what  
we needed to do and operated fairly and with the best interest of town/taxpayer/student

**Motion to close public comment at 8:00 p.m.**

Motion by Mrs. Cole, seconded by Mrs. Andriac  
All in Favor  
Motion Carried

**Executive Session**

**BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education recess and proceed to Executive Session for the purpose of legal discussion of Port Jervis, High Point and Montague and confidential legal matters. Action may be taken after Executive Session.**

**Motion to open Executive Session at 8: 00p.m.**

Motion Mr. Gelderman, seconded by Mrs. Kurtzman  
All in Favor  
Motion Carried

**Motion to close Executive Session at 9:30 p.m.**

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

**Motion to resume Regular Meeting Agenda at 9:30 p.m.**

Motion by Mr. Bolen, seconded by Mrs. Kurtzman  
All in Favor  
Motion Carried

**Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:30 p.m.**

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