

**Montague Board of Education Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
August 16, 2016**

**Call to Order  
Roll Call**

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Tacia Johnson	X	
Diane Cole	X	
Gayle Andriac		X
Sally Kurtzman	X	
Emma Masset	X	
Glen Plotsky		X
Linda Spinapolice	X	

**Others Present:**

Janice L. Hodge, Chief School Administrator/Principal  
Jan MacKenzie, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Gary Kraemer, Esq., Board Attorney

**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 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 last 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. Additionally, since last year, there have been ongoing reports of continual harassment, the most recent of which occurred during the last workshop meeting. 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.**

**Approval of Minutes**

**June 7, 2016 Workshop Meeting**

Motion by Mrs. Kurtzman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Spinapolice  
All in Favor  
Motion carried

**June 7, 2016 Executive Meeting**

Motion by Mrs. Kurtzman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Spinapolice  
All in Favor  
Motion carried

**August 2, 2016 Workshop Meeting**

Motion by Mrs. Spinapolice, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Kurtzman  
Yes: Mrs. Masset, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Kurtzman  
Abstain: Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Spinapolice  
Motion carried

## **August 2, 2016 Executive Meeting**

Motion by Mrs. Kurtzman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Spinapolicie

All in Favor

Mrs. Cole abstained

Motion carried

### **Superintendent Report**

Building Update – window project expected to commence this Friday, 8/19.

Kindergarten and Pre-school Orientation to be held this Thursday, 8/18.

Mrs. Hodge announced her intention to retire as of January 1, 2017. Tomorrow, a letter will be sent to the Business Administrator to be forwarded to the board members.

### **Correspondence**

Mrs. Johnson discussed a letter received from High Point BOE President, Kyle Vealey, in which he stated he believed a member of the High Point Board of Education was leaking information to Montague and asked if Montague Board of Education could provide more information. Gary Kraemer was asked to respond on behalf of the Board.

### **Open to Public (Any Items):**

**As a reminder for all, and 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 NJSA 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 7:00 p.m.**

Motion by Mrs. Kurtzman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Masset  
All in Favor  
Motion carried

Lorie Jeskey – Attended a celebration of County Teacher of the Year with Mr. Gregory.  
Appreciative of Mrs. Hodge’s service; it takes a certain kind of person to be a school administrator

John Mannion –I was correct, an overlap in the tax year doesn’t exist  
Where is the money?  
Take it from your slush fund  
Am I going to get money back?  
The board owes taxpayers an explanation  
There should be more transparency and better accounting

Donna Campbell – I am sick of hearing the Board of Education blame everybody; they blame Mrs. Hodge, Mrs. MacKenzie, Mr. Waycie, High Point High School.  
The board can’t approve anything  
If you were so dead-set on a sibling clause, why did you approve the settlement without one?  
The board is wasting the taxpayers’ money on lawyers  
Move on  
You are doing nothing  
Where is the sports program? Mr. Gregory presented it; I was here  
We only have basketball  
Are you going to do something for children?

Christine Bisl – very sad for Mrs. Hodge’s retirement  
She led well, like no other superintendent  
Her daughter’s first school experience was with Mrs. Hodge  
Mrs. Hodge is going to be missed  
Best wishes

John Mannion – It is no fault of this board that they had to straighten out actions of a previous board  
Don’t listen to nay-sayers

**Motion to close public comment at 7:15 p.m.**

Motion by Mrs. Spinapolice, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Masset  
All in Favor  
Motion carried

**Unfinished Business**

Mrs. Masset requested that Mr. Gregory provide another presentation on the sports program; Mrs. Hodge responded that it would be ready at the next Workshop.

Mr. Kraemer will look into the legal aspect of network administrators and confidentiality.

Choice student transportation and non-public school transportation will be addressed by Mr. Kraemer in consultation with Mrs. MacKenzie.

**Administration**

**AD1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education direct the Administration to provide a detailed investigative report into the registration process for any general education students who received transportation and were registered at High Point Regional High School in the 2012/13 and 2013/14 school year, as 10th, 11th, or 12th graders in 2014/2015 school year, and as 11th or 12th graders in the 2015/2016 school year.**

Motion by Mrs. Masset, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Kurtzman  
Yes: Mrs. Kurtzman, Mrs. Masset, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Spinapolice  
Motion Carried

**AD 2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the 2016-2017 Special Education Tuition Contract effective September 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 with Bergen County Special Services Board of Education for (9373397816) at a cost for tuition of \$60,840 and a non-resident fee of \$6,000.**

ATTACHMENT AD-2

Motion by Mrs. Cole, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Masset  
Yes: Mrs. Kurtzman, Mrs. Masset, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Spinapolice  
Motion Carried

**AD 3. Appoint Insurance Agent**

**BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoints R.C. Lain, Inc., as insurance agent of record, effective July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.**

Motion by Mrs. Spinapolice, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Kurtzman  
Yes: Mrs. Kurtzman, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Spinapolice  
No: Mrs. Masset  
Motion Carried

**Personnel**

**P 1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the following substitutes for the 2016-2017 school year:**

**John Cantelmo**  
**Danielle Christmann**  
**Lisa Cirello**  
**Monica Eulo**  
**Stella Goyo-Shields**  
**Peg Zvaleran**

Motion by Mrs. Cole, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Masset  
Yes: Mrs. Kurtzman, Mrs. Masset, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Spinapolice  
Motion Carried

**P 2. `BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education accept the resignation, with regret, of Rebecca Nelson.**

**ATTACHMENT P2**

Motion by Mrs. Kurtzman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Spinapolice  
Yes: Mrs. Kurtzman, Mrs. Masset, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Spinapolice  
Motion Carried

**P 3. `BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education accept the resignation, with regret, of Cynthia Gaita.**

**ATTACHMENT P3**

Motion by Mrs. Masset, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Spinapolice  
Yes: Mrs. Kurtzman, Mrs. Masset, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Spinapolice  
Motion Carried

### **Policy**

**PY 1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the first reading of a new policy to allow 7th and 8th grade students to disembark from school-provided transportation without adult supervision. In addition, parents can submit a request to have their child dropped off at their residence without the presence of a responsible adult if their child is over 11 years old. Parents will be required to complete an “Authorization and Release Form for Student-Transportation Drop-Off”. This request must be approved by the Chief School Administrator.**

Motion by Mrs. Kurtzman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Masset  
Yes: Mrs. Kurtzman, Mrs. Masset, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Spinapolice  
Motion Carried

### **Building, Grounds, & Transportation**

**BGT 1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education approve the pupil transportation contract for a Port Jervis late bus for the 2016/2017 school year between Stocker Bus Company and the Montague Board of Education in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-3 at a cost of \$25,740.**

Motion to table to September 6 Workshop anticipating firm quote by Mrs. Kurtzman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Masset  
Yes: Mrs. Kurtzman, Mrs. Masset, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Spinapolice  
Motion Carried

**BGT 2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education order a report on what joint transportation options are available for the board's consideration for all choice, parochial, and private school children.**

Motion by Mrs. Masset, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Kurtzman  
Yes: Mrs. Kurtzman, Mrs. Masset, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Spinapolice  
Motion Carried

### **New Business**

Mrs. Cole asked how special education costs could be curtailed by combining or centralizing services.

Mrs. Hodge was asked to provide an update on Rosetta Stone.

### **Executive Session**

**BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montague Board of Education recess and proceed to Executive Session to discuss legal matters (High Point/ Port Jervis, ethics grievance and ethics complaints, transportation, enrollment, COPA) and personnel (CSA Evaluation, Worker's Compensation claim, custodial, BA/BS).**

Motion to open Executive Session at 8:25 p.m.  
Motion by Mrs. Masset, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Spinapolice  
All in Favor  
Motion carried

Motion to close Executive Session at 11:33 p.m.  
Motion by Mrs. Masset, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Cole  
All in Favor  
Motion carried

Motion to resume Regular Meeting Agenda at 11:33 p.m.  
Action may or may not be taken.  
Motion by Mrs. Kurtzman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Spinapolice  
All in Favor  
Motion Carried

### **Adjournment**

#### **Motion to adjourn at 11:35 p.m.**

Motion by Mrs. Spinapolice, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Kurtzman  
All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,

Jan MacKenzie,  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary