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July 28, 2016

Tacia Johnson, Board President  
Janice Hodge, Superintendent  
Montague Township School District  
475 Route 206  
Montague, NJ 07827

Re: Enrollment Options for the 2016-17 School Year and Beyond

## **Via Electronic Mail**

Dear Ms. Johnson and Ms. Hodge:

On June 7, 2016, Commissioner of Education David Hespe formally approved a settlement agreement between the Montague Township Board of Education and the High Point Regional High School Board of Education. No appeal was taken. The litigation between the districts has come to an end.

The settlement provided the following:

1. Any Montague pupil who was enrolled in Port Jervis High School (grades 9-12) on March 14, 2016 will be permitted to complete his or her education at Port Jervis High School.
2. Montague pupils who were enrolled as 8<sup>th</sup> graders in Port Jervis Middle School on March 14, 2016 will have the option of attending either Port Jervis High School or High Point Regional High School beginning in September, 2016, through graduation.
  - a. Montague pupils who enroll as freshmen (9<sup>th</sup> graders) in Port Jervis High School may subsequently transfer to High Point Regional High School. However, once a student transfers from Port Jervis High School to High Point Regional High School, s/he may not return to Port Jervis.
  - b. Montague pupils who enroll as freshmen (9<sup>th</sup> graders) in High Point Regional High School will not be permitted to subsequently transfer to Port Jervis High School.

3. **Beginning in the 2016-17 school year** and thereafter, Montague 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade pupils will be permitted to attend the Montague School, Sussex County Charter School for Technology, a choice school, or a private or parochial school. Montague 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade pupils will no longer be permitted to attend Port Jervis Middle School under the send-receive agreement between the districts. Pursuant to the request of the Montague Board of Education in 2013, the Commissioner of Education withdrew his consent to send Montague pupils to New York.

4. **Beginning in the 2017-18 school year** and thereafter, Montague high school students will be permitted to attend High Point Regional High School, Sussex County Technical School, a choice school, or a private or parochial school. Montague high school students will no longer be permitted to attend Port Jervis High School under the send-receive agreement between the districts (with the exception of pupils referenced in paragraphs 1 and 2 above). Pursuant to the request of the Montague Board of Education in 2013, the Commissioner of Education withdrew his consent to send Montague pupils to New York.

5. There is no “sibling plan” or similar arrangement.

**Parents of children who graduated from Port Jervis Middle School in June, 2016 should immediately contact whichever high school their child wishes to attend and enroll their child in 9<sup>th</sup> grade for the 2016-17 school year.** The high schools need to be notified that pupils will be attending in September, and transportation arrangements will need to be made.

Questions or concerns regarding high school matters should be directed in the first instance to the respective high school.

Please post this letter to the board’s website and distribute it to families as appropriate.

Sincerely Yours,

*Daniel M. Perez*

DANIEL M. PEREZ, Esq.  
Special Counsel to the  
Montague Board of Education

cc: Members of the Board  
Jan McKenzie, Business Administrator and Board Secretary  
Gary Kraemer, Esq.  
Thomas Scapoli, Esq.  
Greg Kotchick, Esq.