

MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of the Tuesday, April 8, 2014 7:00 P.M. Workshop and Special Public Meeting

These minutes have not been formally approved and are subject to change or modification.

The Montgomery Township Board of Education held a Workshop and Special Public Meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

- A. The Montgomery Township Board of Education held a workshop and special public meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 in the Upper Middle School Media Center.
- B. Roll Call - The following Board members were present: Sandra Donnay, Dharmesh Doshi (arrived at 7:03 p.m.), Humberto Goldoni, Nicholas Hladick, Judy Humza, Anne Michaelson, Arun Rimal and Dr. Lei Yu (arrived at 7:03 p.m.)

The following Board members were absent: Adelle Kirk-Csontos

Also Present: Nancy Gartenberg, Superintendent
Thomas M. Venanzi, Business Administrator/
Board Secretary
Annette M. Wells, Associate School Business Administrator/
Assistant Board Secretary
Alexander Chen, Student Representative

- C. EXECUTIVE SESSION – A motion was made by Ms. Humza and seconded by Ms. Michaelson that the board adopt a resolution to go into executive session at 7:02 p.m.

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1975 provides that a public body may exclude the public from that portion of a meeting of which the public body discusses certain matters for which confidentiality is required as permitted in Section 7B of the act.

RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Township of Montgomery in the County of Somerset and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. Items related to personnel and student disciplinary matters will be discussed.
2. The matters discussed in executive session shall be disclosed to the public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

Mr. Doshi and Dr. Yu arrived at 7:03 p.m.

- D. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION – The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.
- E. President Rimal then read the following Statement of Open Meeting and Public Participation – In accordance with the State’s Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by mailing notice of meeting on January 8, 2014 and April 2, 2014. Notice was provided to Board of Education Members, Montgomery Township Clerk, Rocky Hill Borough Clerk, Public Library, Township Posting, School Postings, PTSA Officers, Courier News, Princeton Packet, Trenton Times, and The Star Ledger.
- F. President Rimal then led everyone in the Salute to the Flag.
- G. President Rimal welcomed all to the workshop and special public meeting.

BOARD RECOGNITION

Ms. Gartenberg and Mr. Rimal recognized the following students for athletic achievement:

- Mr. Anthony Cassar, State Champion-Wrestling
- Mr. Zach Warner, State Champion-Swimming
- Mr. Justin Kovacevich, Basketball-1,000 points scored

Ms. Gartenberg and Mr. Rimal recognized Ms. Jennifer Yulo for achieving National Teacher Board Certification.

COMMITTEE/REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Representative Reports

Student Representative Report

Mr. Alex Chen, student representative, congratulated the student athletes.

Mr. Chen reported that the high school has transitioned to the fourth marking period, and the year is going by fast. Mr. Chen stated that April 24th will be the annual blood drive and April 25th is the pep rally and spring dance. He added that the band students left today for Germany and Prague.

MTEA Report

Mr. Chris Crow, MTEA President, reported that the 2014 elections are now finished. The following people were elected to MTEA office:

Ms. Debra O’Reilly – President
Ms. Ginny Lucas – Vice President
Ms. Dana Newbury - Secretary

Board Member Delegate/Representative Reports

Ms. Donnay reported that the Municipal Alliance met on March 10th and discussed two main topics:

- Approaching the district about including information on substance prevention on the district Facebook page

- Bringing an ordinance to the Township Committee allowing the police to arrest underage drinkers on private property

Board Committee Reports

Assessment, Curriculum and Instruction Committee Report

Dr. Yu reported that the committee met on March 27 and discussed the following items:

- Activity fee process
- Math grades
- Proposed 5-8 technology course
- Five-year technology plan

Ms. Gartenberg reported that there was an allegation at the prior board meeting that families were being harassed for the activity fee. This claim of harassment was unfounded. Also, no child has been denied participation in extra-curricular or co-curricular programs. Ms. Gartenberg added that Mr. Tony Maselli, athletic director, is the only person who knows of any hardships. While waiving of fee is automatic for students on free and reduced lunch, the district realizes that there are other hardships. Ms. Gartenberg stated that the district needs to communicate this information better on the district website.

Finance and Budget Committee Report

Mr. Goldoni reported that the committee met on March 20 for the annual open to the public committee meeting. Although the main topic was the 2014-15 budget, the following items were also discussed:

- Review of month end financial reports
- Concern over legal and special education costs
- Payroll direct deposit for all employees

Mr. Goldoni reported that the Finance and Budget Committee understands that there are hardships in the community, and we are trying to be as responsible as we can be. There are contractual obligations which must be met. Mr. Goldoni added that the public had requested no increase in the district budget. However, this is impossible for the district to achieve with all of the imposed mandates.

Human Resources Committee Report

Mr. Goldoni reported that the Human Relations Advisory Council met on March 19th. He believes it was one of the best meetings they have had. There were great suggestions made by the committee members for professional development on diversity. The staff development would include all district stakeholders. The committee chose to do more research on the topic. The next meeting will be held on April 28.

Operations and Facilities Committee Report

Ms. Michaelson discussed the closing of Route 601 beginning next week. She recommended that parents allow the children to ride the bus to reduce the number of cars and traffic on the road.

The committee met on April 3 and discussed the following items:

- Discussion on ridership on buses and data collected by the transportation department
- Transportation department update
- Reviewed the buildings and grounds budget

- Safety grant
- Architect services – retaining current architect
- Request from Sourland Actors Guild for a fee reduction on building use which was denied
- Proposed field next to the post office

Policy Committee Report

Ms. Humza reported that the committee met on March 13th. The following policies were approved for first reading:

<u>Policy #</u>	<u>Policy Title</u>
4160/3160	Physical Examination
3425	Work Related Disability Pay
7520	Loan of School Equipment
8467 & 8467R	Weapons
2431.4	Concussion Testing and Return to Play
2431.4R	Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries

Ms. Humza stated that the next meeting will be held on April 14th. The following policies are planned for discussion at that meeting:

<u>Policy #</u>	<u>Policy Title</u>
5611 & 5611R	Removal of Pupils from the Regular Education Program for Weapons/Firearms Violations
1581	Victim of Domestic Violence Leave
6511	Direct Deposit
3125/4125	Employment of Staff Members
7522	School District Technology provided to Staff Members
7523	School District Technology provided to Pupils

President's Report

Mr. Rimal stated that each year the board conducts a retreat to set goals for the following year. All members need to be present.

The board discussed optional times and dates and decided on meeting Saturday, May 31st.

Due to lack of a quorum for the June 24 business meeting, the board agreed to change the meeting to June 17.

BOARD/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Walter Beadling thanked the district for investigating the issue with pre-calculus exams.

Mr. Beadling stated that at the last meeting the board approved two textbooks . Mr. Beadling researched the text on *American Government and Politics Today: The Essentials* and feels that the book is biased. Mr. Beadling questioned if the board members have read the book and if so, do they feel it demonstrates political bias?

Mr. Wilbert Donnay questioned how much the district spends in legal fees. Mr. Donnay also asked if it was possible to have an in-house attorney.

Mr. Venanzi responded that this year legal fees were approximately two times the amount that was budgeted. He anticipates legal fees will exceed \$300,000, largely due to special education litigation. Mr. Venanzi responded that effective in-house counsel is extremely difficult to find and not cost effective for our district. We would need someone who specializes in all phases of school law, and we would need to keep them busy for 40 hours per week which is not practical. Large urban districts may have a legal department on staff due to the size of the district and the issues that they encounter on a daily basis. However, it would not be cost effective for our district.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

The board reviewed the minutes of the following Board Meeting(s):

1. March 12, 2014 Executive Session Meeting
2. March 12, 2014 Workshop and Special Meeting
3. March 25, 2014 Executive Session Meeting
4. March 25, 2014 Business Meeting

There were no comments for changes to the minutes. The minutes will be approved at the April 22 organization and business meeting.

REVIEW DRAFT ORGANIZATION AND BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA FOR APRIL 22, 2014

The Board reviewed the draft agenda for the April 22, 2014 Organization and Business Meeting.

BOARD/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Beadling stated that he didn't think the board members read the book he had referenced and asked again if the board members had read it.

Mr. Crow stated that this is his 36th year in education. He stated that boards of education are not supposed to read all textbooks before adoption. There is a system in place for adoption of textbooks.

Dr. Yu responded that the board's role is to provide overall guidance to the district. They are not supposed to micromanage. They hire professionals based on their expertise. Dr. Yu stated that the agenda for ACI is given to the committee in advance. If board members so choose, they can read the books. More members look through books but rarely would every committee member read an entire book from cover to cover. This may happen with literary books.

ACTION AGENDA

1.0 ADMINISTRATIVE

A motion was made by Dr. Yu and seconded by Mr. Hladick to approve agenda item 1.1 as follows:

- 1.1 Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Report – Accept the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Report dated April 4, 2014 and noted for acceptance.

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with seven members voting in favor and Ms. Donnay abstaining.

2.0 INSTRUCTION

A motion was made by Dr. Yu and seconded by Mr. Goldoni to approve agenda item 2.1 as follows:

- 2.1 Consultant Approval 2013/2014 – Approve the following consultant for the 2013/14 school year.

CONSULTANT NAME/VENDOR	SERVICES PROVIDED	RATES OF SERVICE
Clay Aldefer Aldefer Associates	Provide consultative services related to organizational design	Not to exceed \$1,100

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

4.0 PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Ms. Humza and seconded by Mr. Doshi to approve agenda item 4.1 as attached (see Pages 7 - 9).

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Goldoni and seconded by Mr. Doshi to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m. Upon call of the question, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas M. Venanzi
School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

4.1 PERSONNEL

Resignations/Retirements/Terminations/Rescissions

Location	Name	Position	Effective	Reason	Dates of Employment/Notes
LMS	Debra Bressaw LOA.I.M.MATH.06.01	Teacher/Math	07/01/2014	Resignation	09/01/2006-06/30/2014
MHS	Cheryl Watson TCH.HS.GUID.MG.06	Guidance Counselor	07/01/2014	Retirement	09/01/1973 – 06/30/2014
MHS	Joan Cleary TCH.HS.ENGL.MG.07	Teacher/English	07/01/2014	Retirement	10/01/1992 – 06/30/2014

Leaves of Absence

Location	Name	Position	Type of Leave	Dates of Leave/Notes
MHS	Shawn O'Steen TCH.HS.TRNR.MG.02	Athletic Trainer	FMLA Anticipated Return	04/28/2014-05/09/2014 unpaid w/benefits 05/12/2014
DISRICT	Tadeusz Kudelko MNT.BO.MANT.NA.05	Maintenance	Sick Bank Leave	03/26/2014 – 04/28/2014 paid w/benefits

Transfers/Voluntary Reassignments

New Position/ Location	Name	Previous Position/ Location	Step	Salary	Pro-rated	Dates of Employment/Notes
TIA/AM/OHES @ 48% Replacing Ranjini Mohan	Latha Jaipal AID.OH.TIA.PS.04	TIA/PM/OHES @48%	2-4	\$10,841.00		04/09/2014-06/30/2014
TIA/PM/OHES @48% Replacing Latha Jaipal	Joseph Jedju AID.OH.TIA.PS.03	TIA/PM/OHES @48%	2-4	\$10,841.00		04/09/2014-06/30/2014

VES/TIA @ 48% Reassigned	Christopher Niedt AID.VS.TIA.EO.08	TIA/OHES @ 48%	2-4	\$10,841.00	04/09/2014-06/30/2014
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Appointments/Reinstatements (Certificated Staff)

Location	Name	Position	Replacing	Step	Salary	Pro-rated	Dates of Employments/Notes
MHS	Nimisha Patel (Leave Replacement) TCH.HS.ENGL.MG.04	Teacher/English	Temmy Kim Olivi	BA 1	\$55,665.00	Yes	04/07/2014- 06/30/2014

Appointments/Reinstatements (Non-Certificated Staff)

Location	Name	Position	Replacing	Step	Salary	Pro-rated	Dates of Employments/Notes
MHS	Rolf Hoffman CUS.HS.CUST.NA.04	Assistant Custodian			Sat. Stipend \$600.00	Yes	01/16/2013-06/30/2013
MHS	Rolf Hoffman CUS.HS.CUST.NA.04	Custodian/Grounds		1-3 Revised	Sat. Stipend \$975.00 36,315.00 Revised	Yes	07/01/2013-03/31/2014 02/01/2014-06/30/2014 (Salary includes \$850.00 3 rd Shift Stipend & \$1,300.00 Sat. Stipend)

Tuition Reimbursement

Location	Name	School	Semester	Credits	Reimbursed Amount	Course
UMS	Karin Kidd	NJPSA			\$1,500.00	Leader 2 Leader
BO	Annette Wells	Thomas Edison	Spring 2014	3	\$1,797.00	Leadership Vision and Strategic Planning
BO	Annette Wells	Thomas Edison	Spring 2014	3	\$1,797.00	Organizational Research

Appointments/Substitute Teachers

Location	Name	Position	Status	Dates of Employment/Notes
DISTRICT	Jennifer Consomer	Substitute Teacher	New	2013 – 2014 School Year
DISTRICT	Carolyn Nasson	Substitute Nurse	Renewal	2013 – 2014 School Year
DISTRICT	F. Diana Smith	Substitute Nurse	New	2013 – 2014 School Year

World Language Assessments 2013-2014

Location	Name	Position	Hr. Rate	Dates of Employment/Notes
MHS	Karin Lee	World Language Assessments Rising 9th Graders	\$56.71	April 30, 2014 – Not to exceed 2 hours
MHS	Jenny Lu	World Language Assessments Rising 9th Graders	\$56.71	April 30, 2014 – Not to exceed 2 hours
MHS	Kim Marshall	World Language Assessments Rising 9th Graders	\$56.71	April 30, 2014 – Not to exceed 2 hours
MHS	Clarisa Lescano	World Language Assessments Rising 9th Graders	\$56.71	April 30, 2014 – Not to exceed 2 hours