

**MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Skillman, New Jersey 08558**

**Meeting, Tuesday, January 23, 2024
5:30 p.m. Executive Session
7:00 p.m. Public Session**

Orchard Hill Elementary School Cafeteria

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

2023-2024 District Goals

Goal 1: Academics

Increase academic achievement for all students, using the implementation of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles and practices in all learning environments.

Goal 2: Equity

Continue building a culturally competent school community that demonstrates a commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB).

Goal 3: Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

Increase learning opportunities designed to develop essential life skills, emotional intelligence, and positive social behaviors for all students.

Goal 4: Communication

Standardize base frequency, methodology, and communication content across all buildings, leveraging messaging and social media platforms to share information and celebrate student success.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

Call to Order – Board President

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, 2024 and January 19, 2024. Notice was provided to Board of Education Members, Montgomery Township Clerk, Rocky Hill Borough Clerk, Public Library, Township Posting, School Posting, PTSA Officers, Courier News, Montgomery News, Princeton Packet, Trenton Times, and The Star Ledger.

The Board reserves the right to enter into Executive Session during all meetings of the Board of Education.

It is the School Board's intention to conclude this meeting no later than 10:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It is recommended that the Board of Education adopt a resolution to convene in executive session as follows:

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.

WHEREAS, the items that are permitted to be discussed in executive session are as follows:

- 1) a matter rendered confidential by federal or state law
- 2) a matter in which release of information would impair the right to receive government funds
- 3) material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy
- 4) a collective bargaining agreement and/or negotiations related to it
- 5) a matter involving the purchase, lease, or acquisition of real property with public funds
- 6) protection of public safety and property and/or investigations of possible violations or violations of law
- 7) pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiations and/or matters of attorney-client privilege
- 8) specific prospective or current employees unless all who could be adversely affected request an open session
- 9) deliberation after a public hearing that could result in a civil penalty or other loss

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education will be discussing items 3, 7, and 8. Action may take place on these items. The matters discussed in executive session shall be disclosed to the public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

ROLL CALL

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION – 7:00 p.m.

SALUTE THE FLAG

MTSD STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT / PRESENTATIONS

- Policy Services Presentation
- School Ethics, Board Governance, and the Role of a Board Member

ACTION AGENDA ITEMS PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board of Education welcomes and encourages input from the public. Members of the public are allotted one opportunity to address the Board regarding the **Action Agenda items ONLY** for up to a maximum of three (3) minutes per speaker. All comments must be directed to the Board. Before you make your comment, please state your name and address and write both in the notebook provided. Being mindful of privacy rights regarding students, board employees, and board members, and to avoid any liability on the part of the speaker, the board discourages defamatory and discourteous remarks. The public comment portions of the meeting are not structured as question-

and-answer sessions but rather are offered as opportunities for the public to share their thoughts with the Board. The Board may need to refer an issue to the superintendent if the issue has not been handled through the appropriate chain of command, usually starting at the school level. Responses may be provided at the end of this session.

COMMITTEE/REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Representative Reports

- MTEA Report
- Board Member Delegate/Representative Reports
(SCSBA, PTSA, MAC, Legislative, NJSBA, Ed. Services Commission, etc.)

Board Committee Reports

- Assessment, Curriculum and Instruction Committee (ACI)
- Operations, Facilities and Finance Committee (OFF)
- Policy and Communications Committee (PCC)
- Human Resource Committee (HRC)
- Officers' Report

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the following Board Meeting(s):

1. December 19, 2023 Executive Session Meeting
2. December 19, 2023 Business Meeting
3. January 5, 2024 Executive Session Meeting
4. January 5, 2024 Organization and Business Meeting

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE BOARD – List of correspondence to the Board:

1. Email dated 12/18/23 from R. Koltur regarding Tennis Facilities
2. Email dated 12/18/23 from R. Koltur regarding Stem Courses and Resources
3. Email dated 12/19/23 from S. Kaithi regarding Request and Concern
4. Email dated 12/19/23 from M. Challuri regarding Tennis in Montgomery Schools
5. Email dated 12/19/23 from C. Valluru regarding Stem Programs
6. Email dated 12/19/23 from A. Dhanekula regarding Tennis
7. Email dated 1/3/24 from H. Kadhim regarding Campaigning Against Islamophobia
8. Email dated 1/4/24 from G. Zayova regarding OPRA Request
9. Email dated 1/4/24 from Montgomery SEPAG regarding MSEPAG Dissolution
10. Email dated 1/5/24 from S. Lacy regarding Campaigning Against Islamophobia
11. Email dated 1/8/24 from M. Lister regarding BMI Insurance
12. Email dated 1/16/24 from J. Church regarding Board Comment
13. Email dated 1/16/24 from J. Church regarding Community Member Harassed
14. Email dated 1/17/24 from H. Kadhim regarding Campaigning Against Islamophobia
15. Email dated 1/17/24 from H. Pino regarding Campaigning Against Islamophobia
16. Email dated 1/17/24 from S. Lacy regarding Campaigning Against Islamophobia

NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD/PUBLIC

The Board of Education welcomes and encourages input from the public. Members of the public are allotted one opportunity to bring any **NEW BUSINESS** to the Board for up to a maximum of three (3) minutes per speaker. All comments must be directed to the Board. Before you make your comment, please state your name and address and write both in the notebook provided. Being mindful of privacy rights regarding students, board employees, and board members, and to avoid any potential liability on the part of the speaker, the board discourages defamatory and discourteous remarks. The public comment portions of the meeting are not structured as question-and-answer sessions. The Board may need to refer an issue to the superintendent if the issue has not been handled through the appropriate chain of command, usually starting at the school level. Responses may be provided at the end of this session.

ACTION AGENDA

1.0 ADMINISTRATIVE

The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve the administrative items as follows:

1.1 Routine Monthly Reports – Accept the following reports:

- a. Student Control Report
- b. Fire/Security Drill Report
- c. Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Report

1.2 Policy/Regulation First Reading - Accept the following policies as a first reading:

0144	Board Member Orientation and Training
0161	Call, Adjournment, and Cancellation
0162	Notice of Board Meetings
3161	Examination for Cause - Teaching Staff Members
4161	Examination for Cause - Support Staff Members
3324	Right of Privacy – Teaching Staff Members
4324	Right of Privacy – Support Staff Members

1.3 Memorandum of Agreement – Approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Montgomery Township School District and Law Enforcement for the 2023-2024 school year.

1.4 Calendar Approval - Approve the amended Academic School Calendar for the 2024-2025 school year.

2.0 CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve the curriculum and instruction agenda as follows:

2.1 MHS Choir Field Trip Approval – Approve the Montgomery High School Choir trip to Ireland from April 9-16, 2025, to perform and attend cultural tours, at no cost to the district.

2.2 Consultant Approvals: 2023-2024 - Approve the following consultants for the 2023-2024 School Year:

CONSULTANT NAME/VENDOR	SERVICES PROVIDED	RATES OF SERVICE
AAC & Me, LLC	AAC Evaluations Post-Eval AAC Training Follow-Up AAC Consultation AAC Training Workshop/Profess. Develop. Annual Review Meeting & Update	\$1,000.00/per eval. \$500.00/per training \$150.00/hr. on-site \$100.00/hr. virt/phone \$800.00/half day \$1,500.00/ full day \$250.00/review session
Student Educational Assessments and Consulting –S.E.A.C. LLC	Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI) Svcs. Educational Assessments	\$165.00/hr. \$600.00/hr.
Jared Campbell Music	Provide social emotional learning assemblies at Orchard Hill Elementary, Village Elementary and Lower Middle School.	\$4,200.00 <i>To be funded by ARP ESSER Grant</i>
Divinely Essential, LLC	Provide professional development for physical education staff on best practices and class structure for special education students.	Not to Exceed \$4,000.00 <i>To be funded by ESEA Title II</i>
NJ Snake Man	Provide a one (1) day assembly for LMS Title I students.	\$425.00 <i>To be funded by ESEA Title I</i>
Talewise	Provide two (2) days of assemblies for LMS Title I students.	\$850.00 <i>To be funded by ESEA Title I</i>
Kickside Martial Arts, Princeton	Provide one (1) day of a martial arts class for LMS Title I students.	\$400.00 <i>To be funded by ESEA Title I</i>

3.0 OPERATIONS, FACILITIES AND FINANCE

The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve the finance agenda as follows:

3.1 Acceptance of the Financial Reports

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 requires the Board Secretary and the Board of Education of the Montgomery School District to certify that no budgetary line item account has been over-expended and that the sufficient funds are available to meet the District’s financial obligation, and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 further requires the Board of Education of the Montgomery Township School District receive and accept the monthly financial statement, the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports; and

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the month ending December 31, 2023 are presented for the Board to accept and are on file in the Office of the School Business Administrator;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education of the Montgomery Township School District acknowledges receipt of and accepts the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the month ending December 31, 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary and the Board of Education certifies that no budgetary line item account has been over-expended and that there are sufficient funds available to meet the District's financial obligation.

3.2 Approval of Transfers

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10-(c)1 states that a report shall be presented to the Board showing all transfers between line item accounts for each line item account shown on the budget prepared in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8; and

WHEREAS, Board Policy 6422 designates the Superintendent of Schools to approve transfers as necessary between meetings of the Board and be reported to the Board, ratified and duly recorded in the minutes at a subsequent Board meeting; and

WHEREAS, transfers were necessary to maintain the needs of the district and are on file in the Office of the School Business Administrator,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montgomery Township Board of Education ratifies and approves the transfers through December 31, 2023 within the 2023-2024 school year budget, as approved by the Superintendent, so that no budgetary line item account has been over-expended and that sufficient funds would be available to meet the district's financial obligations, as requested by various district;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution shall take effect immediately, and the Montgomery Township Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent, Board President and School Business Administrator to sign any documents on behalf of the Montgomery Board of Education with regards to exercising the intent of this resolution.

3.3 Approval of Bill List Fiscal Year 2024

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:19, Expenditure of Funds; Audit and Payment of Claims, provides Board of Educations to make payments on claims for goods received and services rendered payable to the order of the person entitled to receive the amount after approval by the board; or in accordance with payrolls duly certified; or debt service or when provided by resolution approval by a person designated by the board; and

WHEREAS, a list of bills dated January 23, 2024 is being presented to the board with the recommendation that they be ratified and paid respectively; and

WHEREAS, each claim or demand has been fully itemized, verified and audited as required by law in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:19-2;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montgomery Township Board of Education approves the list of bills for payment in the grand sum of \$11,144,231.33 and

General Account	\$11,011,366.59
Food Service Account	\$ 132,864.74
TOTAL	\$11,144,231.33

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the list of bills is on file in the Office of the School Business Administrator, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montgomery Township Board of Education authorizes the School Business Administrator to pay bills if it is determined that a need arises prior to the next board meeting in accordance with Board Policy 6470 – Payment of Claims.

- 3.4 Travel Reimbursement – 2023-2024 – Approve the Board member and/or staff conference and travel expenses as per the travel reimbursement list dated 1/23/24.
- 3.5 Acceptance of FY2023 Audit Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) – Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Montgomery Township Board of Education engaged the firm Suplee, Clooney & Company to conduct a yearly audit of the District’s financial reports; and

WHEREAS, the firm audited these records for the 2022-2023 school year; and

WHEREAS, the auditor has submitted a full report of the audit to the Board; and

WHEREAS, no recommendations were reported;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Township of Montgomery, does hereby accept and place on file the 2022-2023 Annual Audit Report of the records and report of examination of the financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2023, as submitted by the firm Suplee, Clooney & Company;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary be directed to file the necessary reports with the New Jersey State Department of Education.

3.6 Chapters 192/193 Funding 2023-2024 – Approve additional funding under the provisions of Chapters 192/193, Nonpublic Auxiliary and Handicapped Services, in the amount of \$2,152.00 for the 2023-2024 school year to be allocated as follows:

	<u>Additional Funding</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Chapter 192 E.S.L	\$ 0.00	\$ 916.00
Chapter 192 Total	\$ 0.00	\$ 916.00
Chapter 193 Initial Exam and Classification	\$1,326.00	\$ 2,652.00
Chapter 193 Annual Exam and Classification	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,040.00
Chapter 193 Corrective Speech	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,650.00
Chapter 193 Supplementary Instruction	\$ 826.00	\$ 4,130.00
Chapter 193 Total	\$2,152.00	\$ 14,472.00
Grand Total		\$ 15,388.00

3.7 Appointments – The Board President made the following committee assignments for 2024 as per the below list:

- Members of the Assessment, Curriculum and Instruction Committee (ACI):

Chair	Michelle Dowling
Member	Patrick Todd
Member	Maria Spina

- Members of the Human Resources Committee (HRC):

Chair	Patrick Todd
Member	Joanna Filak
Member	Maria Spina

- Members of the Operations, Finances & Facilities Committee (OFF):

Chair	Joanna Filak
Member	Martin Carlson
Member	Patrick Todd

- Members of the Policy and Communications Committee (PCC):

Co-Chair, Policy	Ania Wolecka-Jernigan
Co-Chair, Communications	Zelda Spence-Wallace
Member	Cookie Franco-Herman
Member	Christina Harris

- Montgomery Township PTSA/PTO/PTA Liaison:

Delegate	Cookie Franco-Herman
Alternate	Christina Harris

- Montgomery Township SEPTA/SEPAG Liaison:

Delegate	Michelle Dowling
Alternate	Maria Spina

- Liaison to the Montgomery Township & Rocky Hill Municipal Alliance Committee:

Liaison	Cookie Franco-Herman
Alternate	Martin Carlson

- Voting member and alternate to the New Jersey School Boards Association:

Voting Member	Zelda Spence-Wallace
Alternate	Cookie Franco-Herman

- Member and alternate to the Executive Committee of the Somerset County School Boards Association:

Delegate	Zelda Spence-Wallace
Alternate	Cookie Franco-Herman

- Members of the Negotiations Committee with APSMT:

Chair	Joanna Filak
Member	Martin Carlson
Member	Maria Spina

- Members of the Negotiations Committee with CWA:

Chair	Martin Carlson
Member	Michelle Dowling
Member	Maria Spina

- Members of the Negotiations Committee with MTEA:

Chair	Ania Wolecka-Jernigan
Member	Michelle Dowling
Member	Patrick Todd

3.8 Election of Delegate - It is recommended that the Board of Education elect Dr. Zelda Spence-Wallace as delegate to the Somerset County Educational Services Commission, Ms. Cookie Franco-Herman as an alternate delegate.

3.9 Approve and Accept NJ High Impact Tutoring Grant – Approve and accept the NJ High Impact Tutoring Grant for the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of \$230,000.

4.0 PERSONNEL

The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve Personnel Resolutions which may include: Resignations/Retirements, Leaves of Absence, Appointments of Staff, Transfers Voluntary/Involuntary, Appointments Funded ESSER Grant, Appointments Funded by ESEA Grant, Appointments of Mentor Teachers, Appointments of SOAR, Appointments of Substitutes, Appointments of Visual and Performing Arts, Tuition Reimbursement, Appointments of Co-Curricular, Appointments of Extra Curricular Activities, and Other following discussion in Executive Session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

ADJOURNMENT