

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

**Meeting, Tuesday, March 14, 2023**

**5:00 p.m. Executive Session**

**7:30 p.m. Public Session**

**Montgomery Upper Middle School Media Center**

**WORKSHOP AND BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA**

**Tentative Fiscal Year 24 Budget Approval**

2022-2023 District Goals

- Goal 1: Academic - Increase the understanding and implementation of *Universal Design for Learning*, a framework that guides the design of learning experiences to proactively meet the needs of all types of learners, in order to improve student success across all classroom settings.
- Goal 2: Equity - Increase *cultural competency* among administration, staff, and students in order to create a work and learning environment that supports diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Goal 3: SEL - Increase staff training and implementation of research-based, trauma-informed strategies that will decrease stress, promote wellness, build resilience and create a supportive learning environment for all students, administration, and staff.
- Goal 4: Communication - Improve all methods of communication to deliver clear and transparent district messaging to all district stakeholders by leveraging social media platforms, the website, and email blasts to increase engagement with the community.

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 4, 2023 and March 9, 2023. 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 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 – 7:30 p.m.

## SALUTE THE FLAG

## MTSD STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

## SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT / PRESENTATIONS

- Student Safety Data System (SSDS) Report, 2022-2023: Period 1
- Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) – Investigations, Trainings and Programs, 2022-2023: Period 1
- 2023-2024 Superintendent’s Recommended Budget Presentation

## 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 or questions must be directed to the board president.

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 and board employees and to avoid any potential liability on the part of the speaker, the board discourages references to specific individuals. While directing your comments or questions to the board president, please understand that the public comment portions of the meeting are not structured as question and answer sessions but rather are offered as opportunities for you to share your thoughts with the board. The board president may need to refer an issue to the superintendent if the particular issue has not been handled through the appropriate chain of command with the school district. However, responses may be provided at the end of this session. There are times when comments and questions will require additional fact gathering before a response is provided.

### 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)
- Equity Committee (EC)
- Operations, Facilities and Finance Committee (OFF)
- Policy and Communications Committee (PCC)
- Human Resource Committee (HRC)
- Officers' Report

REVIEW OF MINUTES – It is recommended that the Board of Education review the minutes of the following Board Meeting(s):

1. February 28, 2023      Executive Session Meeting
2. February 28, 2023      Business Meeting

### REVIEW OF THE DRAFT March 28, 2023 BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public are allotted one opportunity to address the Board regarding the **Action Agenda** for up to a maximum of three (3) minutes during this period of the meeting. All comments or questions must be directed to the board president. The board president may need to refer an issue to the superintendent if the particular issue has not been handled through the appropriate chain of command within the school district before coming to the board for a response. All responses will 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 Reports For Approval – Accept the following reports:
- a. Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Report
  - b. Student Safety Data System (SSDS) Report, 2022-2023: Period 1

**2.0 CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION**

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

- 2.1 Out-of-District Placements 2022-2023 - Approve the following out-of-district placements for the 2022-2023 School Year.

		<b>TUITION</b>			
<b>Student ID</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>ESY</b>	<b>RSY</b>	<b>Total for Year</b>
08294	New Hope Academy	3/7/23-6/9/23		\$15,671.74	\$15,671.74

- 2.2 Consultant Approvals 2022-2023 - Approve the following consultants for the 2022-2023 School Year

<b>CONSULTANT NAME/VENDOR</b>	<b>SERVICES PROVIDED</b>	<b>RATES OF SERVICE</b>
The Coder School Montgomery	Provide 10 weeks of coding instruction to LMS Title I students. To be completed by May 24, 2023.	\$10,000.00 <i>To be funded through ESEA Title I</i>
First Student, Inc.	Provide bus transportation for Title I students to attend the before day programs at OHES and VES. To be completed by June 21, 2023.	\$11,900.00 <i>To be funded through ESEA Title I</i>

2.3 Approval of Participation in High School Athletics for Student # 101099

WHEREAS, a student whose name is on file in the Superintendent's Office who is a resident of the Montgomery Township School District (hereinafter referred to as the "District") and is placed by the student's parents at a non-public school for the treatment of students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the student's parents have applied to the District to participate in the interscholastic athletic programs; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent has determined from the records provided to her by the non-public school that this student is in good academic standing and is, therefore, eligible for participation in the District's interscholastic athletic programs, provided the student otherwise meets the eligibility requirements set forth by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) and the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby grants its approval for this student to participate in the District's interscholastic athletic programs, provided the student otherwise meets the eligibility requirements of said program. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized to issue written approval on behalf of the Board of Education to the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association consistent with this Resolution.

**3.0 OPERATIONS, FACILITIES AND FINANCE**

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

3.1 A. Adoption of the 2023-2024 Tentative Budget – that the Board of Education adopt the 2023-2024 tentative budget as follows:

General Fund	\$103,616,316
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 1,353,037
Debt Service Fund	\$ <u>7,882,397</u>
<b>Total Tentative Budget</b>	<b>\$112,851,750</b>

B. Amount to be Raised for Taxes – General Fund – that the Board of Education acknowledge that \$87,296,224 be raised for General Funds for the ensuing school year (2023-2024).

- Montgomery portion \$85,267,302
- Rocky Hill portion \$ 2,028,922

C. Amount to be Raised for Taxes – Debt Service – that the Board of Education acknowledge that \$7,144,883 be raised to support the debt service budget for the ensuing school year (2023-2024).

- Montgomery portion \$7,095,850
- Rocky Hill portion \$ 49,033

- D. Advertise Tentative Budget for Public Hearing – that the Board of Education authorize the advertisement of the tentative budget in the Courier News in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law and establish that the public hearing be held on April 25, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2023-2024 school year.
- E. Approve Maintenance Reserve Withdrawal – Approve the following resolution:  
Approve the withdrawal of \$561,500 from the maintenance reserve account to be included in the 2023-2024 school district budget to fund district maintenance for the 2023-2024 school year.
- F. Approve Capital Reserve Withdrawal – Other Capital Projects – Approve the following resolution:  
Included in budget line 620, Budgeted Withdrawal from Capital Reserve – Excess Costs & Other Capital Projects is \$530,000 for other capital project costs of upgrades to school vestibules and playground upgrades. The total cost of these projects is \$530,000, which represents expenditures for construction elements or projects that are in addition to the facilities efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

3.2 Approve the Adjustment for Increase in Budgeted Health Care Costs for the 2023-24 Budget – Approve the following resolution regarding the use of health care adjustment for the 2023-24 budget:

WHEREAS, the Montgomery Township Board of Education has the ability to exceed the 2% cap permitted on the general fund local tax levy increase through the use of health care adjustment for the 2023-24 tentative budget; and

WHEREAS, \$1,944,713 is available; and

WHEREAS, the Montgomery Township Board of Education has determined that \$1,068,750 is needed to balance the general fund for the 2023-24 tentative budget in order to maintain existing programs, implement mandated programs and remain in alignment with the district's mission and vision within the upcoming school year; and

WHEREAS, the 2023-24, NJ Department of Education Budget Guidelines require the Board of Education to formally adopt a resolution when using a health care adjustment in the 2023-24 tentative budget; and

WHEREAS, the Montgomery Township Board of Education is going above the 2% local tax levy cap with the additional health care adjustment of \$1,068,750.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montgomery Township Board of Education approves the need for \$1,068,750 in health care adjustment to be applied to the 2023-24 local tax levy general fund.

3.3 Approval of Resolution – School District Accountability – A-5

Whereas, the State of New Jersey has enacted P.L. 2007, An Act Concerning School District Accountability (A-5) requiring boards of education to annually approve the total amount of funds budgeted for travel and conferences for all faculty, staff, administration and board members, and

Whereas the ACT became effective on March 15, 2007 and requires prior approval of all travel and conference costs before they are incurred, and

Whereas, such travel expenditures shall include, but not be limited to, all costs for transportation, meals, lodging and registration and conference fees to and for the travel event,

Whereas, the board of education must establish an annual maximum per employee for regular business travel and that annual maximum is established in board policy 6471 as \$1,500 where prior board approval is not required, and

Whereas, the board of education elects to exclude travel expenditures by federal funds from the maximum travel expenditure amount and acknowledges the following travel costs for federal programs:

2022-23 Budget	\$37,291
2022-23 Expenditures through 2/28/23	\$ 7,629
2023-24 Projected Budget	\$35,000

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following budget and expended amounts are acknowledged and costs of travel and conferences through the use of local and state funds are approved for the 2022-2023 school year and the 2023-2024 school year:

Total amount budgeted for travel and conferences 2022-23	\$151,614
Total amount expended July 1, 2022 – Feb. 28, 2023	\$ 39,533
Total amount budgeted for travel and conferences 2023-2024	\$153,590

3.4 Establishment of Maximum Dollar Limits for Professional Services – approve the following maximum dollar limits from the general fund for professional services for the 2023-2024 fiscal year:

<u>Professional Service</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>
Legal	\$ 110,000
Auditing	\$ 30,000
Architecture/Engineering	\$ 50,000
School Physician	\$ 30,000
Educational Services Consultants (evaluations, O.T., P.T., speech, etc.)	\$1,100,000
Financial Advisor	\$ 15,000

- 3.5 Approval of the Adoption of Estimated Tuition Rates for 2023-2024 – establish the following estimated tuition rates for the 2023-2024 school year:

Integrated Preschool	\$ 5,100
Kindergarten	\$19,231
Grades 1-5	\$19,036
Grades 6-8	\$18,001
Grades 9-12	\$19,078
Learning Language Disabled (LLD)	\$34,373
Autistim	\$43,999
Preschool Disabled Part Time (PSD)	\$33,469
Preschool Disabled Full Time (PSD)	\$47,969

- 3.6 Travel Reimbursement – 2022-2023 – Approve the Board member and/or staff conference and travel expenses as per the travel reimbursement list dated 3/14/23.

- 3.7 Addendum for Request for Proposal (RFP 21-01) Professional Development Services for the Implementation of Universal Design for Learning – approval for additional professional learning services for Spring of 2023 as follows:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Services</u>	<u>Amount</u>
I.D.E.	Job- Embedded Support for Teachers	\$13,620.00
I.D.E.	Live Parent Caregivers Webinars/Website Support	\$1,991.00
	Less Discount	(\$780.25)
Total	Paid thru ESSER II funds	\$14,830.75

#### **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**